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THURSDAY, MARCH 10TH, 2011

LEFT: The pupils of Ysgol Iolo Morganwg celebrated World Book Day by dressing as characters from their favourite stories. There was plenty of imagination on show, using fictional characters, as well as real-life heroes. (Can you spot the Shane Williams biography?) (See more photographs by MIKE WILCOCK on page 4).

LLANDOW MAN IS CLEARED AFTER FIVE-A-SIDE PUNCH

Report by AJ SICLUNA

It took a jury at Cardiff Crown Court just three minutes to clear a Llandow man of an allegation that he deliberately attacked an opponent during a five-a-side football match at Cowbridge Leisure Centre.

Paul Langford (41) a carpenter with no previous convictions, was found not guilty of inflicting grievous bodily harm on heating engineer Philip Gardener of Cowbridge.

Langford said throughout the incident that he had acted entirely in self-defence and had thrown only a single punch.

Prosecutor Tracy Lloyd-Nesling said that on January 26 last year, the two were playing on opposite sides at the leisure centre.

In the past, they had got on well together, but their friendship "went sour" and they fell out.

After about 10 minutes of the game, both went for the same ball and got entangled.

Mr Gardener picked up the ball and threw it at Langford.

Langford, it was claimed, became angry and said: "It's been going on for weeks" and began swearing.

It is alleged he punched Mr Gardener to the left side of the face and followed up with a second punch.

The injured man was taken to the Princess of Wales hospital and later treated at Morriston Hospital in Swansea for a broken left cheek bone.

An operation was carried out to lift the fracture. When interviewed, the defendant explained that he and the injured man had fallen out.

He said Mr Gardener had elbowed him in the ribs, threw the ball in his face and claimed "he took a swing at me".

He said things had been brewing for a couple of months and he threw a single punch because he believed there was "a perceived threat".

A witness, Craig Phillips, who was in goal for one of the teams, said Mr Gardener threw the ball at Langford, "not particularly hard", but both then began swinging punches.

Mr Phillips said he heard something "pop" in Mr Gardener's face.

The defendant told the jury he acted as he did because he believed he was going to be punched.

What he did, he said, was not unlawful.

CATTLE MARKET IS REPRIEVED BY LAST-DITCH AGREEMENT

by PHILIP IRWIN

A LAST-MINUTE agreement has been reached in the tense negotiations surrounding the future of Cowbridge Cattle Market.

Only last week, the Vale Council announced that talks had broken down, but now the market has had a last minute reprieve after the market operators accepted an offer from the council to extend their term of occupancy.

The operators had requested a 'rolling' extension that would allow the council, subject to six months notice, to take possession if an alternative use for the site was found.

Instead, a single 12-month extension has been granted.

The Vale Council owns the market and Council Leader, Gordon Kemp, said: "This is great news for Cowbridge and the farming community.

"The immediate future of the market is secure and we wish the market operators a successful trading year."

Andrew Thomas, of Herbert R Thomas, who operate the market in conjunction with Watts & Morgan as 'Glamorgan Mart', said: "We're delighted we have been able to secure the short term future of Cowbridge livestock market for the benefit of the farming community of Glamorgan.

"On behalf of Glamorgan Mart, we would like to say thank you for all the support we have received from the rural community and the town of Cowbridge. Our thanks also go to the Leader of the Council, Gordon Kemp, for his assistance in facilitating an agreement."

When the talks broke down, Andrew Thomas said that the Vale Council had tried to impose conditions that would have added about £65,000 to the cost of operating the market – on top of the rent.

The GEM understands that there has been considerable movement in that area.

Vale MP Alun Cairns welcomed the news and said: "I'm so pleased that both parties have been able to secure an agreement that is acceptable for all.

"This means,of course, that Cowbridge's historic status as a market town can continue, until there is more certainty on plans for the site that all parts of the community can support."

Alun John, the chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, said: "I am delighted that the market is continuing to trade for the next 12 months – and then hopefully on into the future."

(See snap survey on page 16)

TARMAC ON THE LOCAL MEADOW

HOW sad to see the natural beauty of the meadow near Llantwit Major beach utterly spoiled, with a tarmac path up the middle.

For years, people have walked happily on the grass track, feeling at one with nature. Rabbits, birds, trees and dragonflies all contributing to the general peace.

If the idea is to enable motor bikers to tear up and down, this will be helpful!

If the reason is to make a safe path for prams and small children, the dangerous bendy road has to be negotiated before reaching that area.

Would it have been better to have had first-hand knowledge of the conditions? This cannot be achieved on a drawing board.

P Challenger,
Llantwit Major.

Volunteers sought for Armed Forces Day

ON behalf of the Armed Forces Day (AFD) committee, I would like to thank all who attended the 2010 event in Cardiff Bay and for making it a day to remember.

Once again, we were blessed with fine weather, which resulted in an increased attendance – not only from the AFC community – but also from the general public.

Although planning is in its early stages, it is the intention of the Armed Forces Day committee that the main event, on Saturday, June 25, will be centred on Bute Park Coopers Field, Cardiff city centre and Cardiff Castle.

There will, of course, be a number of other events in the preceding week that will be held in the castle, City Hall and Cottrell Park Golf Club.

The programme of events in broad outline, subject to confirmation or change, is as follows:

June 20 – Flag raising ceremony, Cardiff Castle, veterans and standards in attendance.

June 22 – Armed Forces Day golf match. Details and application forms are on the website.

June 24 – Beat Retreat Cardiff Castle (details on website).

June 25 – Public parade through Cardiff city centre; short drumhead service; possible medals/veterans' badges presentations, entertainments and military capability demonstrations.

Volunteers are being sought to take part in the event.

Full details on www.armedforcesday-wales.co.uk

Dave Morris
(Telephone 01446 772043, email davecpt-morris@tiscali.co.uk/dave@armedforcesday-wales.co.uk)

Dangerous pot holes

SPRING is nearly here and yet the amount of pot holes on our roads has hardly decreased; they are an eyesore and also extremely dangerous.

How long do we have to wait until the Vale Council decides to fill these in?

R Evans, Penarth

The lights stay on!

WITH reference to G Thomas's letter about turning off lights to save money, my whole street has lights on from 4.30pm till about 5am, winter and summer.

It doesn't get dark until about 9.30pm and light about 5am in summer, what a waste of fossil fuel.

I've approached the council about it a few times, but it seems to fall on deaf ears. The council's supposed to be "strapped for cash"? Yeh, right!

Alex Campbell, Barry

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'Wrong to give prisoners right to vote' – says Vale MP

LAST week (in The GEM) Mr Christopher Short questioned my vote in parliament to block prisoners from voting and the European Convention on Human Rights.

To allow convicted murderers, sex offenders and other prisoners the right to vote is simply wrong. When such offenders committed their crime I believe that they gave up their right, while in prison, to vote.

This is a matter I have raised with the Secretary of State for Justice on several occasions before the debate. The background stems from prisoner John Hirst, who was convicted of manslaughter.

The prisoner had killed his landlady with an axe, but pleaded guilty to manslaughter by diminished responsibility, instead of murder.

In 2001, he took his case on voting rights to the High Court, failed but then managed to win in the European Court of Human Rights in 2006. It's their judgment that is forcing the UK government to act.

The vote in parliament will have strengthened the government's hand in their negotiations with the EU court. This is also the court that wants to give sex offenders the right to appeal against having their names recorded on the sex offenders' register.

It seems to me that the ECHR is developing to be a charter for offenders, rather than the victims.

The Prime Minister has therefore announced a commission to consider human rights.

This will give us an opportunity to champion human rights here in the UK in the interest of all, including victims, that will be judged by British courts, according to our policies, priorities and culture.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale of Glamorgan

'No confusion over recycling'

REGARDING the article by Coun Richard Bertin in The GEM dated on March 3, I don't believe Vale residents should have been left confused by the introduction of the waste recycling, as we have had letters stating what is being collected on which week until May.

I'm not sure if we'll get new letters then or if we will have to work it out for ourselves.

It is quite simple though – the food waste gets picked up each week and the bins each fortnight, and we have all been informed which day our bins are being collected.

During the snow people only needed to check on the council website to see whether there were normal collections or not.

There has been no need for bins to be left out for long periods of time.

The problem, I believe, is that not enough people are recycling, so that now there are a double lot of bags going out fortnightly which could amount to as much eight bags or more at a time.

I only have one rubbish bag a week as I recycle everything else.

Julie Gregory,
Barry

'NO WAY TO TREAT LES'

MAY I add my voice to those objecting to the cuts being imposed on council workers in the Vale?

In the Broad Street/High Street area of Barry, we have a marvellous street cleaner called Les. He is brilliant, diligent, dedicated and humble. He is also very good at his job.

Anyone who has seen the area after a Friday or Saturday night, will know what a monumental task he faces, which he tackles with equanimity and efficiency.

If anyone deserves the MBE, he does. Now, his pay is to be cut and his supine trade union has apparently agreed to this.

Gone are the days of the 70s and 80s when unions had muscle and used it (with the exception of the Rail Union).

If anything, for his dedication, he should be receiving a pay increase, not a decrease.

Shame on you Vale Council and the politicians who put the country into this mess.

Christopher Short,
Barry

Instead of attacking council...

'Blame morons who deposit litter in the Vale'

I REFER to the article regarding litter in the Vale (The GEM March 3) in which Mr Jones comments on the litter problem – but rather than rail against 'the council', surely his ire would be better directed at the morons who have deposited the litter?

Having recently participated in a litter-pick in and around Ewenny and Corntown, I would suggest that main culprits are those customers of a well-known burger chain and the drinkers of the lager that 'reaches parts that other lagers do not'.

...Or should that be the 'litter that reaches the parts...'?

Let us also not forget those citizens who find it impossible to access the council amenity sites, but nevertheless manage to drive to a secluded spot, scale hedges, ditches and bramble patches to deposit their household detritus.

Rather than expect someone else to clean up the mess, isn't it about time we all developed a sense of social responsibility and take action ourselves?

You never know, but it might shame the 'litter bugs' into acting more properly.

Helen Baker,
Ewenny

'Thank you, cheque mate!

A SHORT while ago, I went to my bank to pay in a cheque but found on arrival that I had dropped it in the car park.

It was therefore very pleasing to receive a phone call from the bank soon after arriving home to say that someone had kindly paid in the cheque for me and the bank would be sending on the paying-in book.

Could you please publish this letter so that the good Samaritan will know how much I appreciate his/her very kind action.

KE Walls,
Llanbethery

WRITE IN!

• WE reserve the right to edit all letters. Please keep them brief and address them to: The Editor, ggem@tindlenews.co.uk GEM Newspapers Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7 7EL

ALTERNATIVES TO THE CUTS

THE news is full of doom and gloom – whether it's the closure of your local library, talks of pay freezes, or announcements or restructure and redundancies, it's simply impossible to ignore the impact of the cuts on our public services.

Economic experts throughout the world are in agreement that the current Westminster government's approach to the crisis is unnecessarily risky and will damage Britain. There are clear alternatives, which include raising taxes through a 'Robin Hood tax' (a tax on major financial transactions of financial institutions) and reforming tax havens.

Instead, public services are bearing the brunt whilst bankers continue to cash their fat bonus cheques.

Please, don't feel hopeless, join us on March 26 in London for the 'March for the Alternative', and together we can make a difference.

Andrew Woodman,
Barry

Tory candidate supports Brynhill scheme protest

I WAS at the meeting of local residents last Saturday, discussing the potential use of part of the Brynhill Golf Club site for house-building.

I fully support the view of the vast majority of local residents that the council should reject the inclusion of this site and other adjacent sites in the Local Development Plan (LDP) which will be submitted to the Welsh Assembly Government in 2012.

Vale councillors Katherine Kemp and Marguerita Wright were at the meeting and also supported this view.

I agree with the recommendation of Alun Cairns MP, who suggested at the meeting that residents should keep the lines of communication with the council open and voice their concerns, in particular on the grounds that the road infrastructure cannot cope with further development.

The Conservative team will be distributing templates of standard letters that residents can use to send to Redrow and the council in the very near future.

I would also like to assure local residents that I support the creation of a local action group and will make every effort to help ensure smooth transition of the LDP through the Assembly.

Dr Angela Jones-Evans
(Conservative Assembly candidate for the Vale)

Winner's thank you

WE just wanted to write and thank The GEM for the fabulous evening we had at The Sycamore Tree on February 19, as our prize in your Good Food and Leisure Guide competition.

A great atmosphere and really delicious food and very attentive hosts, made our evening a real treat.

We will definitely return again, and would recommend The Sycamore Tree.

Mrs V Woodley,
Port Talbot.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
10 Thur	09.12	9.0	21.28	8.8
11 Fri	09.46	8.6	22.02	8.4
12 Sat	10.20	8.1	22.47	7.9
13 Sun	11.21	7.6	23.53	7.5
14 Mon			12.49	7.2
15 Tues	01.36	7.4	14.23	7.6
16 Wed	02.58	8.1	15.39	8.4
17 Thur	04.09	8.7	16.43	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

E-Mail Contacts: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* • *gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk* • Tel 01446 774484
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Oxfam director visits Cowbridge to mend fences with volunteers

VOLUNTEERS who used to work at the now-closed Oxfam shop in Cowbridge have been praised by a senior charity official, after a 'clear-the-air' meeting in the town.

The shop was closed in November last year – a decision that left volunteers who served in the shop extremely disappointed.

However, a spokeswoman for the volunteers has contacted The GEM to issue a joint statement about what happened in the lead-up to the closure of the shop.

The statement reads:

Since November 2010, Cowbridge has been missing its Oxfam shop.

For 30 years, it had been housed in the little store in Verity's Court, thanks to the generosity of the John family.

It operated successfully as a conduit for recycling unwanted goods and raised more than half a million pounds for much-needed work.

Since January 2009, however, a number of misguided management decisions meant that Oxfam lost its long-serving volunteers, as well as those who had joined more recently.

Consequently, the business, already struggling in cramped conditions, became unviable.

On February 10, David McCullough, the trading director for Oxfam, invited all the long-serving volunteers to a meeting in the council chamber. Organised and chaired by Coun Gwen Baty, a devoted volunteer for Oxfam.

It proved to be a frank and positive exchange of views between the top management and the shop floor volunteers.

The volunteers were left in no doubt that their contribution of time and efforts over many years was much valued.

Oxfam depends on volunteers with energy and knowledge of locality, a network of organisations, to man their shops.

Our volunteers are now involved in Red Cross and other charities, but hopefully, enough interest will be generated locally for Oxfam to re-open elsewhere in town, to continue the good work.

David McCullough told The GEM: "Meeting the dedicated team of Oxfam volunteers in Cowbridge was an opportunity I truly appreciated.

"Oxfam would love to be able to work again with our committed and loyal supporters in the area, and hope that when the time is right. we will be able to reopen a shop and raise money to help people living in poverty all over the world."

A much appreciated dontaion changes hands.

Church fundraisers' £750 cheque for heart charity

FATHER Norman Williams and Holy Cross church's fundraisers have presented Mrs Lynne Mulcahy, secretary of Cowbridge committee of the British Heart Foundation, with a cheque for £750 – a donation from the Christmas tree Festival held in November.

BHF had been chosen as the preferred charity for the last festival and it was particularly apt as it happens to be the foundation's 50th anniversary.

"We are delighted to be able to share in the celebration and wish them every success in the work they undertake in the area," said spokeswoman, Pamela Roberts.

Chief executive Iain Cornish signing his pledge to raise money for the Yorkshire Building Society's charity of the year.

Support for Alzheimer's

STAFF at the Yorkshire Building Society's Cowbridge branch have pledged to raise funds for its charity of the year – the Alzheimer's Society.

Jonathan Tucker, manager at the branch along with his team, have signed a 'Pledge Certificate' promising to dedicate time to organise a fundraising or volunteering event, with all proceeds going to Alzheimer's Society.

He said: "We are proud to be signing this pledge to do all we can to raise money for Alzheimer's Society in 2011 and proving our commitment to supporting this fantastic charity.

"Throughout this year, we are hoping that the people of Cowbridge will come and support us as we fulfil our fundraising pledge – just watch this space for news of the fundraising challenges we have coming up!"

Memorabilia wanted!

TO my mind, Cowbridge has changed massively since I moved here in the mid-1960s, in terms of shops in particular.

I recall the infrequent sight on the High Street of fresh fruit and veg, the gas-lit barber's and grocer's window showing only bottles of Tizer and boxes of cornflakes.

The only 'boutique' was Ann Talbot's ladies' and children's wear shop by the bridge – a glory hole full of goodies where everything was lent out 'on appro'.

The town has surely changed, too, in its increase in population, though not really in terms of its area. It is still small, with a defined boundary, surrounded by farming land, and retaining a strong community spirit.

People, buildings, societies, events and schools have come and gone since then, some changes for the better, some mourned as a loss.

By and large, however, there are enough people living and visiting here who have memories of the last few decades, and those new to the area may be interested in how the town has recently developed.

The local history room in Old Hall contains all sorts of photos and documents which should spark interest in the 1960s to 1980s (and possibly 90s) era, and it is proposed to hold an exhibition about these years in the town in some of the Old Hall rooms in July.

I would be very grateful for any photographs, articles, mementoes or reminiscences which could be donated, loaned, or copied to jog people's memories and add interest.

Also, anyone who feels keen to help 'shape' this exhibition and get it off the ground would be really welcomed (technical, publicity and admin skills included).

Please get in touch on 01446 773373, or bettyalden@google-mail.com

BETTY ALDEN

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI

Darts, Welsh cakes, and Easter eggs!

MEMBERS held a craft evening and enjoyed making pincushions, under the expert leadership of Jill Watkins.

Unfortunately, our darts team were unsuccessful in the federation darts competition on February 19. We are in the process of acquiring our own dart board, which will make practice arrangements easier and we hope it will improve our chances in next year's competition!

The March meeting in Penllyn Village Hall, was opened by president, Novello Peters, and we were treated to freshly-baked Welsh cakes made by Awen Evans.

Glamorgan WI Show booklets were given out, and members were encouraged to enter as many classes as possible.

Novello introduced the speaker, Sheila Brice, who explained the origins of Easter eggs and showed a chocolate egg, transformed into a beautifully-decorated bunny rabbit's cradle.

The speaker was thanked by Novello Peters. Results of the raffle and the competition were announced. Members were then able to browse and buy jewellery-making items or second-hand books.

Our craft evening will be held on Wednesday, March 16, at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Our next meeting will be held in Penllyn Village Hall on April 5 at 7.30pm, when Jan Gosney will be talking about 'sea shells of the world'.

New members welcomed on the first Tuesday in every month (except August) at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

For further information telephone 01656 674191 or telephone 01656 647115. **MN**

Bridge results

THE latest results are:

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club, Welsh Bridge Union (St David's Day), simultaneous pairs, February 28:

First, Kevin Maddox and Mike Best – 64.58 per cent; Second, Marjorie Morris and Linda Pinnock – 63.45; Third, Tony Howarth and Gary Williams – 59.85; Fourth, Barrie Waite and Graham Norris – 58.71; Fifth, Wendy Willians and John Henson – 58.33; Sixth, Irene Thomas and Graham Jones – 57.39.

Cowbridge and District Bridge Club (Llanbleddian), Club night March 1.

First, Ann Miller and Pauline McAllen – 67.46 per cent; Second, Pat and Brian Swain – 60.32; Third, Amy Owen and Glenda Roberts – 55.16; Fourth, Dot Isaac and Diana Lewis – 54.37; Fifth, Anne Thomas and Debbie Rosevear – 53.17; Sixth, Marian Arnold and Rita Williams – 50.79. **BS**

Cowbridge Mayor's coffee morning for Women's Aid charity

ABOVE: Jane Hutt AM with Cowbridge Town Mayor, Coun Len Taylor, Kay Quinn, Director of Atal y Fro and staff.

MAYOR of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Len Taylor, had support from Vale AM Jane Hutt, at his coffee morning in the Town Hall last weekend to support the Vale Women's Aid organisation, Atal y Fro.

Part of the International Women's Day celebrations taking place throughout the week, the AM reported: "It was excellent to see the public interest at the Cowbridge Town Mayor's coffee morning in the work of Atal y Fro which provides refuge, advice and support to the victims of domestic abuse in the Vale.

"I would like to congratulate Coun Len Taylor for his support for this important organisation during International Women's Week."

The day a million pounds went up in smoke, *literally*!

THE speaker at Llanharry WI, Mr D Warren, travelled from Swansea to tell of '*the day I burnt a million pounds*'

Mr Warren's intriguing story took place at Battersea Power Station, where he was employed, back in 1950.

Due to a change in currency, sacks of notes arrived at the furnace and it was his huge task to burn it all, taking three whole days to carry it out.

As it was St David's Day, members were treated to Welsh cakes provided by Margaret Edwards and Barbara Jones. To add to the occasion, Rita Butt and Vi Hall dressed up in Welsh traditional costume.

The competition, an old coin or note, attracted excellent entries and was narrowly won by Jill Rosser.

The business meeting followed when forthcoming events were discussed and dates noted. Ideas for the summer trip were requested for next month's meeting.

The lunch club arranged to meet on March 18 at Llantrisant Golf Club.

Next month, members will be shown how to make a hanging basket and tips for planting patio tubs.

JR

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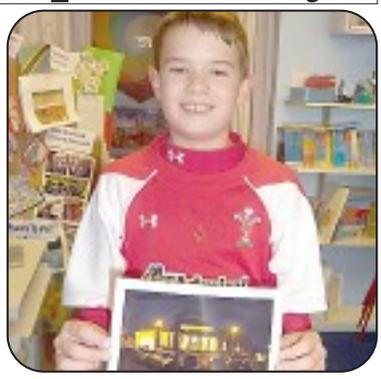
Characters come to life at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg

PUPILS at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg, in Cowbridge played their parts to perfection when they dressed as characters from their favourite stories on World Book Day – *as these pictures by MIKE WILCOCK clearly show!*

"WE WANT TO TELL YOU A STORY – OR TWO!'

Y Bont Faen did St David proud on his special day!



THE patron saint of Wales would certainly have been proud of the St David's Day celebrations that took place at Y Bont Faen on March 1.

With the 2012 National Eisteddfod being welcomed into the Vale, the Y Bont Faen family demonstrated their talents in poetry, music, sculpture, digital photography, painting, dance and performance, a spokesperson reports.

Parents and visitors were welcomed with a performance on the harp by Meic Griffiths, headteacher, with the school festooned in daffodils, flags – and even the school lunch had a Welsh flavour.

Competition was fierce but friendly, with the children receiving prizes for their efforts. The Chairing of the Bard, where the best poet is awarded a crown, cloak and chair was won by James Morris.

His procession to the chair was aided by the year-1 and 2 children, who had created their own Dawns Y Blodau costumes and their own ceremonial dance.

World Book Day

Y Bont Faen truly took World Book Day seriously this year! With everyone, including all the staff, dressed as their favourite book character for the day.

There was a mixture of classic Roger Hargreaves Mr Men and Little Misses, a rivalry of wizards, a wonderment of Dorothys and even two Fantastic Mr Foxes!

Parents came into the school to 'bontcast' their favourite story book, so that everyone could have a new mixture of bedtime stories. The 'bontcasts' are available for download from the school website.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

THE St Bride's Major keep fit club is about to celebrate its 30th anniversary with a dinner at the end of March.

Contact Daphne on 01656 880688 or Liz on 01656 880363 for details.

Classes are held at the Scout Hall, St Brides Major on Tuesday evenings at 7pm. New members welcome.

LOCAL lad Rhodri Stevenson is training to take part in the London Marathon on April 17.

He is running to help Getkidsgoing, which is a national charity supplying special wheelchairs for disabled children and young people to enable them to be involved in sport.

A blind auction to help raise funds will be held at his local pub, the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major, on April 9. Good luck, Rhodri!

THE funeral took place on Wednesday, March 9, at Coychurch Crematorium of Margaret Hughes (nee Brewer) aged 89 years. Interment was at St Brides Major churchyard.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jill Jury of Lon-y-Eglwys, St Brides Major, on her broadcast on BBC Wales, promoting her part in the launching of the book *World beyond Words,* bravely telling of her experiences dealing with dyslexia. Well done, Jill.

EVA MORGAN of Blaen Dewis, Wick, celebrated her 90th birthday with family and friends on Wednesday, March 2 (just missing St David's Day!).

Eva, who was born in Cae Caradoc Farm, Wick, of yeoman farmers, has lived in the village all her life and has taken an active part in the community – having been past chairman of the community council and a Sunday school teacher in the chapel among many other interests.

She has one son, Roger, and three grandchildren who arranged her special day. Congratulations, Eva!

COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Community council

LLANGAN

Community council meeting on March 7 was attended by Mr J Evans and Mr G Dulson, community centre committee members.

The meeting opened with a report from PCSO Steve Thomas, who said that on the night of February 25-26 a stable in Llangan was broken into, causing of £500 damage.

Between February 25 and March 5, a digging machine was stolen.

Call PC Steve Thomas at Cowbridge police station if you have information.

A new timer has been placed on the heating system at Treoes community centre.

Hall events

A CONCERT on April 29 (tickets available from committee members); televised rugby matches at the community hall until the end of March.

Llangan community hall – March 12: Games night 'Fifty pence' funds to go for Comic Relief.

Other issues

THE fence and banking at the end of the field in Twchwyn Garth is falling into the stream towards 5 Twchwyn Garth and the pumping station. This could cause flooding.

elast olane

DEEP pot holes are again causing problems for motorists and horse riders along this oad.

Green drinks

GREEN DRINKS are being held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Thursday, March 10 from 6.30pm.

This is an open and informal monthly get-together to chat and share information on how to live in a more sustainable way.

Discussion will focus on a renewable energy project for Cowbridge and the development of a community hub. All welcome.

Contact: Rob McGhee 01446 775686, or transitioncowbridge@googlemail.com

IVY CELEBRATES 100th BIRTHDAY!

A COLWINSTON woman reached the milestone of 100 years this week – and her close family were there to celebrate!

After a family gathering at home, the party went to the nearby Sycamore Tree Inn to celebrate Ivy Kennard's 100th birthday.

Her son and daughter-in-law have lived in the Vale for more than 30 years, and Ivy gave up her independence and moved in with them just five years ago Ivy can look back on a full life as a Londoner, living and working through the blitz in World War II. Her son, Brian, supplied the following biography:

Ivy Worboys was born in St John's Wood, London, on March 8, 1911, and married Bert Arthur Kennard on October 16, 1937.

They had two sons, Peter and Brian; and then five grandchildren, Graeme, Sally-Ann, Michael, Andrew and Peter; followed by two great-grandchildren Annabel and Estelle aged eight and five respectively.

She left school at 15 and went to work as a furrier in the fur department at Harrods in Knightsbridge, where several other relatives already worked in other departments.

She continued to work after her marriage, and also during the blitz until her eldest son Peter was born in 1942.

Her husband Bert served in the Royal Army Medical Corp during WWII but sadly died in 1952 from a then untreatable blood disorder.

In 1948, at the age of six, son Peter survived 22 months in one of the first 'iron lung' machines after contracting polio in the epidemic of that year.

As a small girl Ivy remembers a horse-drawn transport system, soldiers marching off to the First World War and being taken by her father with her younger brother to see the newly-built Cenotaph in 1920.

In 1940, during the blitz, she recalls seeing a V1 (doodlebug) rocket in the sky above Hounslow, when its engine stopped and it fell to earth and exploded in the road, around the corner from where she lived.

She was more than 80 years old before being tempted on her first overseas holiday and air flight – and she was 97 when she enjoyed her last family holiday, in Lanzarote.

Ivy had enjoyed many holidays in Colwinston since her son Brian and daughter-in-law Diane moved to the village in 1979, and was finally persuaded to become a permanent resident some five years ago.

As to her longevity, she has no particular secret, but her sons think it is that steely determined nature much seen in people born at that time.

Great grand-daughters Annabel and Estelle with Ivy. (PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK).

Ivy with her birthday card from the Queen.

Barbours go missing in daylight robbery!

MORE than £1,000 of top-of-the-range country jackets have been stolen from a shop in Cowbridge High Street – and police are asking for help.

Police in the Vale are investigating the theft of a dozen ladies' wax jackets from Arthur John & Co in Cowbridge.

The thefts took place between 3.30pm on Wednesday, March 2, and 3pm on Sunday, March 6.

The Barbour jackets, all valued at more than £140 each, were removed from racks in the store.

Among the stolen jackets were an olive 'Sapper' size 14, a black 'Sapper' size 12, three rustic 'Utility' in sizes 16, 18 and 20, two navy 'Kate' in sizes 8 and 18, a rustic 'Kate' size 8, and an olive 'Kate' size 16.

Three black 'Connie' jackets size 12, 16 and 18 were also stolen.

Vale Neighbourhood Police Sergeant Paul Revers said: "We are appealing for any information regarding these thefts.

"Have you been offered a ladies' Barbour jacket for sale? Do you know anyone who may have a number of these new jackets in recent days?

"This type of crime is very unusual in Cowbridge and we are appealing to members of the public to be vigilant as they go about their shopping. If they see anything suspicious please alert shop staff and call the police."

Anyone with any information regarding these thefts is asked to contact PS Paul Revers at Llantwit Major police station on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800

Wick RFC reach Cup final

WICK RFC reached the District Cup final after a fine display to beat Division 3 leaders Maesteg Celtic Seconds by 37–3.

The home side started the match at a high tempo and by half-time had scored tries from centres John Cooper and Bryn McNaughton, and hooker Jake McNaughton.

Conditions were not favourable for kickers, with the only successes of the match a conversion and a penalty from the respective outside-halves.

Wick opened the scoring in the second half with a deserved try for lock Rob Maltby, who had an exceptional game.

The final three tries came from Mike Sims, who defied the poor pitch condition to run in a hat-trick.

All credit has to go to Maesteg Celtic, who never gave up and were unfortunate not to score right up to the final whistle.

Notable in this game was the performance of the Wick front row, as it was the youngest combination that has taken to the field for a long time, with props Will Cooke and Rhys Reed, with hooker Jake McNaughton.

Coaches Birkett and Creed were more than happy with the performance that has set up a final at Llanharan in May.

Owain Glyndwr and 'JPR' at St Brides eisteddfod!

ST BRIDES Major C/W Primary School had great fun celebrating St David's Day with the annual eisteddfod on March 1.

Parents were entertained to solo performances, class items and enthusiastic singing.

Some children dressed in traditional Welsh costume, with others choosing to dress as famous Welsh characters. If you look carefully, you may even spot JPR Williams, Owain Glyndwr and Derek the Weatherman!

Children across the school competed in various competitions, creating an array of Welsh masks, daffodil arrangements and luscious leeks.

It was a great celebration of Wales and a wonderful time was had by all who attended! CM

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

IT is with great sadness that I report the death of Margaret Hughes, aged 89, after a long illness bravely borne.

Margaret, daughter of 'Brewers the Butchers' of Bridgend, was born 'over the shop' in Adare Street, Bridgend.

WICK Chapel will be holding the following services when everyone is warmly welcomed: March 14, March 20 (all at 3pm); April 10, Easter family service at 3pm.

CONGRATULATIONS to Eva Morgan of Blaen Dewi, Wick, who is celebrating her 90th birthday with family and friends on April 2.

British Legion stalwart dies

MEMBERS of the Royal British Legion in Cowbridge have paid tribute to a stalwart member who died last week.

Fiona Farrelly, who was a resident at Longmeadow Court in Cowbridge, was described as "living for the Legion".

Haydn Painter, the chairman of the Cowbridge branch of the Royal British Legion, said that Fiona Farrelly had joined the branch more than 50 years ago.

He said; "For most of those years she was the secretary and treasurer. She lived for the Legion, and she represented the branch at county meetings as well.

"The Royal British Legion will miss her services as she worked endlessly for the branch and the county."

Her funeral will be on Tuesday, March 15, at 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

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Ysgol Bro Morgannwg pupils visit the city where the Iron Curtain was brought down

YEAR-12 pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, Barry, who are studying German, visited Berlin during half term with Miss James, to practice their linguistic skills and to visit historical landmarks.

RIGHT: East Side Gallery – an old piece of the Berlin Wall.

BELOW: Outside the Stasi prison.

ABOVE: Students at the Brandenburg Gate.

Vale rural 'bus' link

THE Greenlinks Community Transport Project has been established by the Vale Council to provide community transport for residents of the rural Vale.

The service is based around a 13-seater minibus, a Volkswagon Sharan seven-seat people carrier operated by volunteers.

Roadworks report

Heol Mynydd, Welsh St Donats *– road closure 9.30am-3.30pm.*

Colcot Road, between Winston Road and Whitewell Road, Barry *– temporary traffic control.*

A48 from Culverhouse Cross to Bridgend boundary *– temporary traffic control.*

A4231 Barry Docks Link Road, Barry *– temporary traffic control.*

A4055 Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys (near the Murch) *– temporary traffic control.*

Arcot Street, Penarth *– temporary traffic control.*

CCTV assists with two arrests

CCTV, working under the umbrella of the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with two arrests and the location of two missing persons in the week ending March 6.

The police were contacted on 28 occasions, with one arrest made concerning being drunk in charge of a vehicle at Broad Street, Barry. A further arrest involved theft at Holton Road, Barry. In addition, two missing persons were found in Barry.

Pudding tasting, entertainment & comic limericks on St David's day!

RHOOSE WI celebrated St David's day on March 1 at the village hall when the business was kept to a minimum to allow time for the main event, the eisteddfod.

It began with a limerick competition, which everyone entered with enthusiasm. A 'pudding tasting' proved very popular, with members providing and sampling a large number of delicious desserts. Tea and Welsh cakes followed and then the company settled down to a programme of entertainment performed by the members themselves.

Pam Jupp produced a clever parody of Hamlet's speech entitled 'To Buy or Not to Buy'; Barbara Goodway and Joy Grant wrote and spoke about their childhood memories of Rhoose; Ray Reynolds spoke abut the life of Laura Ashley and also wrote a lovely evocative poem about walking in Porthkerry Park.

Poems, both funny and moving, were chosen and read by Stella Hughes, Margaret Mortimer, Ann Harris, Shirley Hardwick and Maureen Anderson. Gloria Sparks, Barbara Goodway, Eileen Eeles and Ray Reynolds sang a lively Welsh song, accompanied on the piano by Grace Watkins.

The final item, 'Dr I'm In Trouble' performed by the versatile and talented partnership of Elsa Jones and Jenny Reed, caused great amusement.

Competition winners were announced at the end of the evening. 'The Sunshine Girls' (Jenny Reed, Shirley Hardwick , Maureen Anderson and Glenys Watson) won the limerick competition and the raffle was won by Margaret Lloyd.

At the end of a very enjoyable eisteddfod, the company stood to sing the National Anthem.

At the end of the evening, members were reminded that there will be two meetings in April. The first of these will take place on April 5, when as 2011 hosts of the South Vale link, Rhoose will entertain members of the other WIs in the link with a finger buffet.

The speaker will be Mrs Anne Campbell, High Sheriff of Glamorgan. The second meeting will take place on April 7, when Mrs Christine Seaman will talk about her life as a dancer.

Both of these meetings will begin at the Village Hall,Stewart Road, Rhoose at 7.30pm. Events in March: The annual lunch on March 4 at the Victoria Inn, Siginstone; skittles at Rhoose Social Club on March 18 at 2pm. **JJ**

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As he listens to songs on MP3...

Tobias is pining for green, green grass of home!

ABOVE: The generous firefighters at Barry Fire Station hand over a £700 cheque for Tobias.

PEOPLE in the Vale are always keen to hear the latest news on Tobias Lunnon, the six-year-old youngster, who was paralysed in a car crash last summer.

Tobias remains in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge with his mum Fiona at his bedside.

Fiona said Tobias is anxious to return to Wales.

She added: "He is staying on the tilt table for longer now, 20 mins three times a week.

"He listens to his MP3 player to make the time go faster.

"It has all his favourite songs on it like 'Does your chewing gum lose its flavour', 'Purple people eater', 'Morningtown Ride', 'Blood' by MCR, and 'The Number of the Beast' by Iron Maiden. Quite an eclectic mix!

"He is still doing well at school and whizzing through the work, and staying out in his chair for longer.

"Just recently, he went to Build a Bear in Cambridge and had a lovely time building a bear with a giggle in!

"As he was there, he also remembered that it was his sister's birthday soon, so he built her a bear, too, which sang a happy birthday song.

"Then we went shopping – his first shopping trip in six months. He called it 'present pile-up' as he went around the shops with me letting him have whatever he wanted. Well six months with no shopping is a lot to make up!"

And Fiona wanted to say a big thanks to the men at Barry Fire Station:

"They gave me a £700 cheque for Tobias that they had raised during a 5-a-side football tournament.

"It was such a lovely gesture, and they were such kind, genuine people," she added.

Tobias gets a cwtch from mum!

Age Concern grant

Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale has been awarded £25,000 in recognition of its "outstanding contribution to improving health and social care among over-60s" in the region.

The charity beat more than 400 organisations from around the UK to become one of ten winners of this year's GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) IMPACT Awards, run in partnership with health think-tank The King's Fund.

Stanwell Comprehensive School pupils are pictured at the Safer Partnership offices.

Youth PACT pupils' visit

STANWELL Comprehensive School pupils are pictured during a visit to the Safer Vale Partnership offices to learn about funding community projects on a tour of the offices at Barry Fire Station.

Schools Liaison Officer, Police Constable Emma Mudie said: "Youth PACT meetings are held in the school, in an effort to allow young people to 'have their say' on issues which affect them in the community. It allows them the opportunity to influence the allocation of key resources such as police officers, council workers and money in the same way that the general neighbourhood PACT meetings do."

BAYSIDE GARAGE LTD IS IN THE RUNNING FOR TOP UK SERVICE AND REPAIR TITLE

Advertisement feature

Motor Codes – the government-backed regulatory body for the motor industry – has announced the nation's Top 50 car service and repair centres, after six weeks of voting by motorists across the UK.

BAYSIDE GARAGE LTD has been nominated by motorists as one of the UK's top 50 garages for car servicing and repair in the annual Golden Garages competition (*www.goldengarages.co.uk*).

In a bid to reward good customer service, motorists have voted in droves to dispel the myth that taking your car for a service can be a nerve-racking affair.

Thousands voted in the contest, organised by the government-backed consumer watchdog for the motor industry, Motor Codes, to highlight the nation's most reliable and professional garages.

The top 50, selected from across 10 UK regions, will now progress to the final voting stage of the competition to find the UK's best workshop, with the overall winning 'Golden Garage 'set to be announced on April 4, 2011.

The shortlist of garages can be found on the Golden Garages website and motorists are invited to vote in the next stage of the competition, to select the 10 best, by casting their vote online.

The national Golden Garages winner will then be chosen by a panel of expert judges, including TV personality Mike Brewer, What Car? editor-in-chief Steve Fowler, Emma Butcher, editor of Car and Accessory Trader and Motor Codes managing director, Chris Mason.

Top 10 voting for Golden Garages opened this week and closes on Sunday, March 13.

As Chris Mason explains, Golden Garages is an initiative designed to celebrate good customer service and instil confidence in the motorist: "We all need to feel secure about who to trust with our car and our money, and at Motor Codes, we're developing a network of 'safe haven' garages committed to open and honest trading.

"The Golden Garages contest allows us to publicly recognise the commitment of these reputable garages recommended by their customers."

Motorists are able to search for garages that subscribe to Motor Codes via its online Garage Finder tool - *www.motorcodes.co.uk/garagefinder* – and can make an informed decision on where to take their car, based on the feedback of other garage customers.

Ratings are viewable on garage profile pages and current statistics show that more than 95 per cent of Motor Codes customers would recommend their garage to friends and family.

The competition can be followed online at www.goldengarages.co.uk, as well as on twitter at http://twitter.com/GoldenGarages.

Motorists taking part in the voting could win a thrilling Porsche Driving Experience at the world-famous Silverstone race track. The garages compete for a prize fund totalling £12,000.

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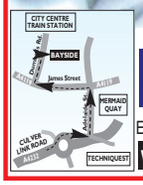

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Food standards website makes sluggish start in the Vale of Glamorgan

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

THE first food hygiene ratings for the Vale are available on the Food Standards Agency website which shows some local outlets and organisations failing to make the grade 3 'generally satisfactory' rating.

The rating system works in the following way: 0 – urgent improvement necessary; 1 – major improvement necessary; 2 – improvement necessary; 3 – generally satisfactory; 4 – good; 5 – very good.

The scores are part of a scheme run by local authorities in Wales, England and Northern Ireland to give the consumer information about food hygiene standards across their own area.

A spokesman for the Food Standards Agency explained: "Each business is given a 'hygiene rating' when it is inspected by a food safety officer from the business's local authority.

"The hygiene rating shows how closely the business is meeting the requirements of food hygiene law.

"When you eat out or shop for food, you might see a sticker in the window or on the door, or a certificate on display, showing you the hygiene rating for that business.

"Businesses are encouraged to display these stickers and certificates at their premises in a place where you can easily see them when you visit.

"The scheme is new. This means not all businesses in an area running the scheme will have a rating yet."

At the moment, the amount of information varies from local authority to local authority.

The GEM searched for 'all businesses that handle food in Bridgend county borough' – and a total of 258 establishments were listed.

However, an identical search in the Vale of Glamorgan listed only 26!

One establishment which is listed on the Food Standards Agency website which scored a 1 was Ashgrove School in Penarth.

The GEM approached the Vale Council for a comment, and a spokeswoman said: "We are aware of the report.

"This is a premises issue and there are plans in place to address the report recommendations.

"We intend on requesting a re-inspection following completion of work in the near future."

(The ratings are available at *www.food.gov.uk*)

Local Lions hold free diabetes screening session

THE Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club will be holding a free diabetes screening session at the Lesser Hall in Cowbridge on March 19, between 10am and 12.30 pm.

The tests will be carried out by fully qualified nurses and are completely confidential.

Anyone having a positive test result will then be advised to visit their GP for further tests.

On the same date, the club will also be holding a book sale alongside the diabetes screening sessions in the Lesser Hall, between 10am and 4pm.

To donate good quality books, where 100 per cent of the funds raised will go to help good causes, contact the club on 0845 8336763.

During August, Lions are holding the annual Bob Cooke games in Swindon for people with disabilities.

Transport will be provided for competitors, along with carers.

Good
The Big Society?

UNISON Cymru Wales

Do you believe in schools? Think libraries are important? Believe that not everything can be counted in pounds and pence? We'd like to invite you to join a million voices.

We know that the Westminster Government spending cuts will damage public services and will put more than a million people (UK wide) out of work. The cuts will hit the vulnerable, damage communities and undermine much of what holds us together as a society.

In the Vale of Glamorgan, the Council are already currently consulting over the privatisation of leisure services. Not only will this have a devastating impact on those already working in leisure but anyone using their local leisure centre could find it closing or see a substantial increase in cost to use the facilities.

Libraries are another area under threat with the Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, and Merthyr Tydfil all looking at axing fixed or mobile libraries.

The Westminster Government claim that 'there is no alternative' and that 'we are all in this together', but we know that is just not the case. We know that it is completely unnecessary for the deficit to be eliminated in four years—if we look at the deficit over the course of the last century, the current deficit is not particularly high. In fact, cutting too fast and too deep will stifle economic growth and less tax revenue will be available. Furthermore, raising taxes such as VAT impact those on poor and middle incomes far more than those on higher earnings. Yet enormous bonuses are still being paid and those receiving them are not making a fair contribution.

We need to stand together and provide a voice for all those that have suffered unfairly at the hands of this UK government—those public service users that have seen reductions or closures to their public services, and a voice for those public sector workers that have lost their jobs. We need to show that we reject the argument that there is no alternative. Of course the recession has damaged our economy, but savage cuts will only serve to damage it further.

Put 26th March in your diary and ask your colleagues, friends and family to put it in theirs. Transport is being arranged by UNISON in the Vale of Glamorgan – contact us now to book your seat and March for the Alternative.

March for public services
26 March

On 26 March thousands of people from all over the UK will march in London to speak out against the government's savage and unfair spending cuts.

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Show your support on March 26 and March for the Alternative. For details on travel arrangements to the March and to get involved in your local campaign or visit our website: www.unison.org.uk/26march or contact MFTAwales@unison.co.uk. Tel: 029 2072 9453

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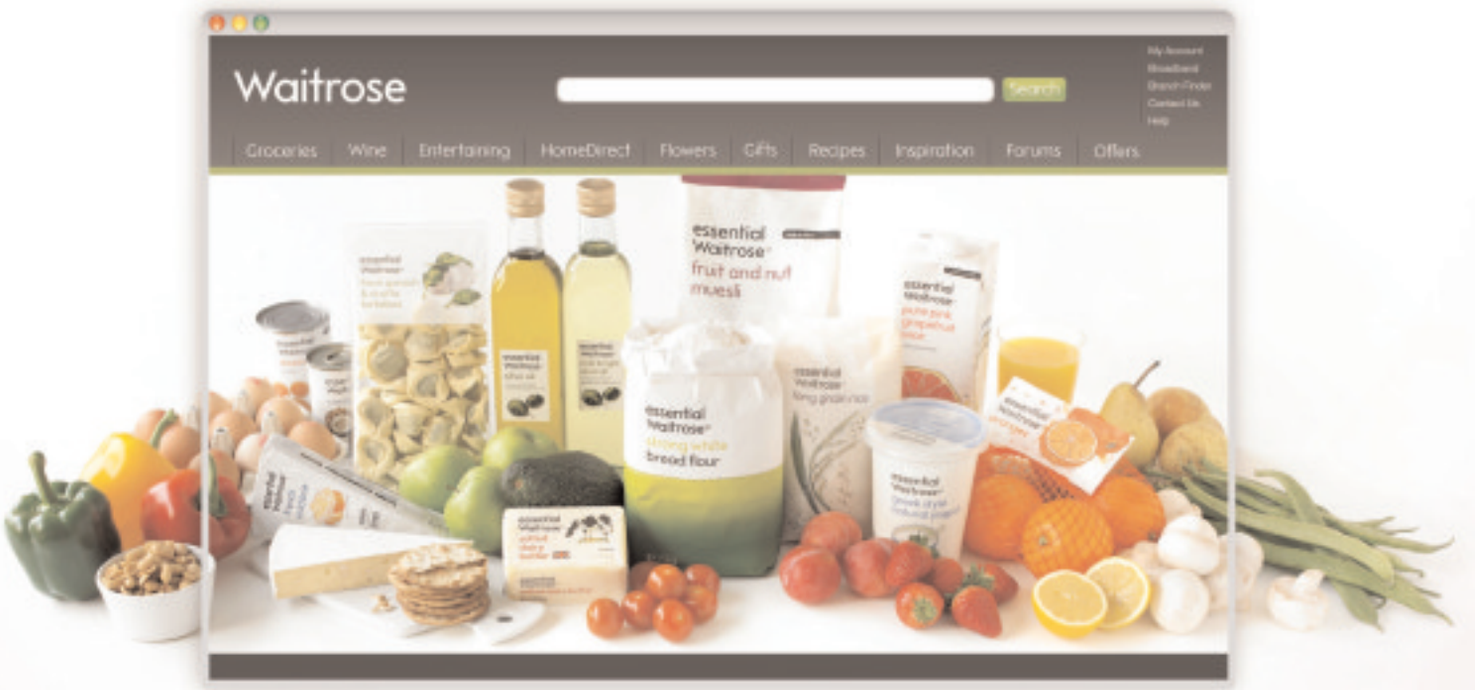

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Children sitting in their houses in the main hall.

A 'fabulous eisteddfod' at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig

Aimee Canty and Lewis Bumford holding the winning shield for the Hafren house.

MARCH 4 was a special day for pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig, as they held their annual school eisteddfod.

All 430 pupils took part, either on stage or working on different topics in their classes and activities included reciting, singing, dancing, art work, handwriting and playing an instrument.

Manon Wiliam, a pupil from year-6, completed the 'double' by winning the crown and the chair for her poetry and her story writing.

It was a close run event throughout, but eventually captains Lewis Bumford and Aimee Canty lifted the shield for the Hafren house for the first time.

Manon Wiliam receiving her crown and chair.

Headteacher Mrs Owen, said: "It was a fabulous day and all the children gave a 100 per cent effort in everything that they did. we are all very proud of each and every one of them."

Chairman gives 'scenic tour' of the National Trust Wales

THE March meeting of Ystradowen and district WI took place on another very cold winter evening, but there was good turnout to welcome the speaker, Mr Roger Sellick, chairman of the National Trust in Wales.

He gave members a 'tour' through Wales, highlighting the beautiful and very varied properties owned and cared for by the Trust.

It started in Anglesey, Plas Newydd, an elegant house on the banks of the Menai Straits, boasting spectacular views of Snowdon and including an impressive mural of a vast seascape by Rex Whistler.

We travelled to Bodnant Gardens in Conwy where the gardens are quite stunning and on to Plas yn Rhiw, an intimate manor house with more spectacular views – across Cardigan Bay.

The tour stopped in mid Wales to admire Powys Castle, a fantastic setting for open air concerts in the summer.

The tour also took in Chirk Castle, a magnificent 14th century fortress situated in the Welsh Marches.

Corrina Turner gave a vote of thanks to Mr Sellick and president Jan Foyle chaired the business for the month.

In June, a small group is visiting Blenheim Palace and in August, a larger group is looking forward to a day at Denman College.

The date for the next meeting is April 6. On March 23, members are meeting at the White Lion in Ystradowen. **EL**

Glamorgan Law launched

advertisement

BEECH & CO, commercial property and business law specialists based at Cowbridge, have celebrated their merger with Peter Davies, Solicitors, of Cardiff who merged with James & Bulteel and Anthony Jewell & Co of Pontypridd earlier this year.

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The firms have now joined together under the umbrella of a new business venture called Glamorgan Law.

The launch was celebrated at an event attended by south Wales business leaders at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge on St David's Day.

A keynote address was given by Dyfrig John of HSBC and a response by Peter Davies, managing partner of the newly-merged firm and president of the Cardiff Law Society.

Richard Beech said: "Glamorgan Law represents a great opportunity for us to offer our rapidly-growing client base in south Wales and elsewhere a full range of services.

"Each member firm of Glamorgan Law will retain its individual identity and specialist focus but will be able to call on the skills of the other parts of the new business when needed. It's good for us and good for our clients.

"Glamorgan Law will be able to provide services, including commercial property, business advice, house buying and selling, wills, probates and trusts and now professional negligence, employment law, family law and litigation."

Contact www.glamlaw.co.uk

Driver is sentenced after crash which killed two friends

Report by AJ SICLUNA

TWO teenage boys with glowing futures ahead of them died instantly when a car in which they were passengers crashed into a wall near Southerndown, after the vehicle went out of control as it travelled through a deep pool of water, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

The driver Nicholas Landon (18) of Bridgend was at the wheel of his Suzuki Swift and had passed his test a month before. He had been travelling between 64.6 mph and 71.4 mph on the narrow, badly lit road before losing control.

Landon was sentenced to 20 months in a young offender institution and disqualified from driving for three years after pleading guilty to causing the deaths of Roy Thomas and Alex Jones by careless driving.

A friend of the group, Jack Germain (19) of Bridgend, who had also been travelling at a high speed along the same road, and who was overtaken by Landon, admitted a charge of careless driving and was fined £500, ordered to pay £100 costs and was disqualified from driving for six months.

Judge Neil Bidder said Landon had taken the lives of his two passengers.

"They were all close friends, only 17, living happy and fruitful lives with great potential futures".

He added: "No sentence I impose will bring them back, nor will any sentence or words remove the pain and suffering of their family and friends."

Both men, he said, had been driving at "grossly excessive speeds".

Landon, he said, must have seen the water but effectively ignored the conditions.

"The deaths of the two have had serious consequences for their families and they have suffered intense grief."

Inexperience, he said, was a contributory factor, and the case represented a tragedy for Landon and his family. The surface water, said the judge, should not have been permitted to remain on the road.

Prosecutor David Elias said the incident occurred on November 16, 2009 on the Bridgend to Southerndown road near the Pelican pub.

The road had a 40-mile an hour limit.

Moments before the crash, Landon had overtaken a Ford Fiesta driven by Germain.

"Landon was driving in a careless manner well above the speed limit," he said. Earlier, they had all gathered at Bridgend retail park and decided to go to the coast.

Mr Jones was in the front seat with Mr Thomas in the back. All were wearing seat belts.

Driving conditions, said Mr Elias, were difficult. From CCTV footage it was established that Landon was doing between 64.6 and 71.4 mph passing the Pelican pub.

He went over the brow of a hill and ahead of him was a large puddle of deep standing water.

The car hit the water and went out of control. The rear fishtailed and the nearside crashed into a boundary wall.

Mr Germain's speed near the pub was estimated at between 60.8 and 67.2 mph. When he arrived on the scene, he found the Suzuki on its side with the driver and passengers inside and he did everything possible to assist.

Only the driver, said Mr Elias, demonstrated any vital signs. A doctor arrived and found both passengers dead.

The puddle of water, he said, had been due to a blocked drain cover. There were indications that the crashed car had not braked. The vehicle hit the wall at between 40 and 50 mph.

Mr Elias said that if Landon had been driving within the speed limit he could have stopped when he saw the water and before colliding with the wall. It was well known, he said, that pools of water built up on that road.

When the police interviewed Landon, he said he had no recollection of the incident but was aware the road was subject to a 40 mph limit.

Germain said he was aware there would have been puddles in the area as he had driven along the road about 100 times.

Daniel Williams, representing Landon, said the case did not involve racing or competitive driving and he accepted that excessive speed was the cause of the accident.

The pub landlord had referred to the stretch of water as a lake, 28.5 metres long, wide and deep.

It posed, said Mr Williams, a substantial unforeseeable risk for drivers and had been there five days.

The landlord himself had sometimes physically unblocked the drain and had not seen local authority staff do that.

Mr Williams said: "It represented an accident waiting to happen."

Landon would have seen the water when only five metres from it. Landon himself, said Mr Williams, was seriously injured. He was in a coma for five days with collapsed lungs, multiple fractures and a torn bladder.

"He would do everything in his power to turn back the clock. He is deeply sorry he cannot, and for what he has done."

Peter Davies, for Germain, said he immediately contacted the emergency services and tried to seek responses from those in the crashed car.

"He has lived under the cloud of this matter for some time. Luckily, he dealt with the surface water without incident.

"The profound effect of what happened will last a lifetime. It has haunted him."

Landon, the court heard, will have to take a special test of competence to drive.

St David's Day celebrations at Welsh medium playgroup

THE children at Cylch Meithrin Bethesda celebrated with Welsh songs, daffodil hat making and Welsh cakes in Barry. All the staff and children dressed in national costume or something suitable in red!

Currying favour with Eisteddfod!

LEFT: Dr Dylan Jones, chairman of the Eisteddfod's executive committee; Janet Davies, event organiser; Anhar Miah of The Mughal.

LOCAL fundraising for the National Eisteddfod 2012 in the Vale has got under way, with a successful first event for the Welsh St Donats area appeals committee.

Around 100 people met at Cowbridge's Mughal Emperor restaurant last Sunday evening (March 6) to enjoy a curry, raising over £900 in the process.

Event organiser Janet Davies from Prysg said: "Our first fundraising event was a great success and I am very grateful to Anhar Miah and his team at The Mughal for making us so welcome. Thanks also to everyone who attended and who contributed to the convivial atmosphere of the evening."

The next event planned by the committee is a rugby forum at The Bear Hotel on Thursday, May 19. On the question panel will be Scarlets coach and former Irish rugby union international Simon Easterby, who will be joined by other well-known rugby celebrities.

For tickets and more information about the event please contact Sian-Elin Jones on 01446 781129.

Cyrri ar Gyrion y Bont-Faen

MAE'R ymgyrch leol i godi arian tuag at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg 2012 gan bwyllgor apêl Llanddunwyd a'r Cylch wedi cychwyn gyda noson lwyddiannus yn Mwyty'r Mughal ar gyrion y Bont-Faen.

Daeth oddeutu 100 o bobl ynghyd i fwynhau ac i gymdeithasu nos Sul ddiwethaf (6 Mawrth), gan godi dros £900.

Dywedodd trefnydd y noson Janet Davies, "Ry ni'n falch iawn fod ein digwyddiad codi arian cyntaf wedi bod mor llwyddiannus a dwi'n dra ddiolchgar i Anhar Miah a'i dîm yn y Mughal am roi cymaint o groeso i ni. Diolch hefyd i bawb wnaeth gefnogi a gwneud y noson yn un hwylus dros ben."

Fforwm Rygbi yng Ngwesty'r Bear ar nos Iau, Mai 19 yw digwyddiad nesaf y pwyllgor apêl yma. Yn ymuno ar y panel gyda Simon Easterby, hyfforddwr y Sgarlets a chyn chwaraewr rygbi rhyngwladol Iwerddon, fydd nifer o enwogion eraill y byd rygbi.

Ceir tocynnau a mwy o fanylion oddi wrth Sian-Elin Jones ar 01446 781129.

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Voters in the Vale and Bridgend are poles apart when it comes to referendum

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

GEM readers will probably be aware that this newspaper covers a wide area – in the main the two areas covered by the two local authorities of the Vale of Glamorgan and of Bridgend county borough.

Politically, Bridgend was held by Labour, even at the low point of the party's fortunes at the last election, while the Vale has been a key marginal for as long as anyone can remember.

However, the two areas have never been further apart than at last week's referendum on law making powers for Wales.

Bridgend was rock solid in support, with more than double the voters saying 'yes' than saying 'no'.

On a turnout of 35.4 per cent, there were 25,063 in favour (68.1 per cent of votes cast), and only 11,736 on the negative side.

However, in the Vale there was a higher turnout (39.7 per cent) but the voters came within a whisker of joining Monmouth as the only borough to say no.

The yes voters totalled 19,430, gaining 52.5 per cent of the vote, while the negatives added up to 17,551.

As the only local authority to vote no was Monmouth – widely perceived to be the most Anglicised – does this mean that the Vale is the same?

Alternatively, does it mean that the Conservatives failed to get in step behind Welsh leader Nick Bourne, who was part of the all-party push for a yes vote?

Surprisingly, both yes campaigns were hailing the result a success.

Tim Thomas of Plaid was the campaign co-ordinator for Bridgend county borough – working alongside First Minister Carwyn Jones, although he will be standing against him in the May Assembly elections – and he put the good yes result down to hard work.

He said: "I believe our close cooperation was one of the prime reasons why 68.1 per cent of the county borough voted in favour of primary law-making powers for Wales.

"This was not only the seventh highest yes vote in Wales, but also the biggest swing in favour of a yes from the 1997 referendum in the whole of Wales."

The much narrower win in the Vale was, according to yes campaign co-ordinator and Castleland Labour Vale Councillor, Chris Elmore, was also down to team work.

He said: "A yes vote in the Vale is incredible in my view. This is down to the hard work of all those who worked on the campaign locally, from across the political divide.

"When you consider that those who voted no in 1997 totalled almost 65 per cent of all votes cast, achieving more than 50 per cent voting yes is incredible, and just shows that people in the Vale are more supportive of the Assembly and what it is doing to improve Wales."

Coun Elmore said that over the last 12 years, voters had become more aware of how the Assembly could make a difference.

He said: "Clearly the commitment of the constituency AMs, Jane Hutt and Lorraine Barrett, and those who have served on the regional list, has also shown voters that AMs and the Assembly are committed to the many communities of Wales including the Vale."

Kevin Mahoney, who campaigned for a no vote in the Vale, felt that the resources of the yes campaign had been too much to counter.

He said: "We had all four parties against us, and trade union leaders speaking out, and they had no mandate from their members as far as I am aware."

He added that now that the yes campaigners had won, they were already talking about taking powers that, during the campaign, they had denied they were interested in.

He said; "Dafydd Elis Thomas did not talk about abolishing the Welsh Office during the campaign. That course of action would leave us with even less representation in Westminster than now."

Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks said: "It is absolutely wonderful that there has been a change of view in the Vale since the Assembly was formed more than a decade ago.

"Obviously, the people of the Vale responded to the positive message from the 'Yes for Wales' campaign.

"I respect the views of those who voted no. As Assembly Members and as a Welsh government, we will have to work harder to overcome their concerns."

Porthcawl town councillor Chris Smart, a Conservative who was a staunch supporter of the no campaign, acknowledged that Bridgend had followed the national pattern with two thirds in favour of giving the Assembly extra powers.

"Personally, I am bitterly disappointed, but as a democrat, I have to go along with this result and I hope that the Assembly will use its new powers wisely for the benefit of both the people of Bridgend and also of Wales."

Police Inspector in court over child sex offences

A police inspector from the Coychurch area has been charged with a series of child sex offences.

South Wales Police Inspector Geraint Lloyd Evans was charged last week with five offences:

1. Conspiring with others to incite engagement in unlawful sexual activity with a child under 13;

2.Possession of Section-1 ammunition;

3. Three offences of making indecent images of children;

4. Possession of four child abuse images;

5. Possession of extreme pornography.

Llanelli Magistrates Court decided that Inspector Evans will be held on remand and will appear at Swansea Crown Court tomorrow (March 11) along with three members of the public who have also been charged with offences related to indecent images of children.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) is managing an investigation by South Wales Police (SWP) Public Protection Unit into allegations that 47-year-old Inspector Evans was in possession of indecent images of children.

A separate SWP criminal investigation in connection with this case has led to the arrest of four members of the public. Three have been charged and are being held on remand.

The IPCC Commissioner for Wales, Tom Davies said: "I am satisfied that this is being thoroughly investigated. It would be inappropriate to comment further now that the judicial process has started."

A SWP statement said: *"A 49-year-old male from the Cardiff area, a 49-year-old male from the Neath area, and a 54-year-old male from the Ross-on-Wye area, appeared at Llanelli Magistrates Court on March 3, 2011, charged with a number of offences related to indecent images of children, including conspiracy to incite or engage in sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 years – contrary to Section 1.1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.*

"All three men were remanded in custody. They are due to appear at Swansea Crown Court on Friday, March 11."

The statement went on: *"A 49-year-old male from the Ystrad Mynach area also appeared at Llanelli Magistrates court on March 4, charged in relation to indecent images of children, including conspiracy to incite or engage in sexual activity with a child under the age of 13 years – contrary to Section 1.1 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.*

"He was remanded in custody and is due to appear before Swansea Crown Court on Friday, March 11.."

Man jailed after biting an innocent passer-by

by AJ SICLUNA

A YOUNG couple walking home through the centre of Barry were the victims of a totally unprovoked attack on New Year's Eve, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

Craig Harris had the side of his jaw bitten by 23-year-old Ricky Smith, who then attacked Mr Harris' girlfriend, Suzanne Ford, by rugby tackling her to the pavement, said prosecutor Tony Trigg.

Smith, of Barry, was jailed for a total of 20 months. He admitted wounding Mr Harris, causing Miss Ford actual bodily harm, and a breach of a conditional discharge for shoplifting.

Said Judge Philip Richards: "This was quite a nasty and frightening attack on two innocent people on New Year's Eve when everyone should have been happy and celebrating. You used your teeth as a weapon, as well as your fists."

Mr Trigg said that as the couple walked through Barry, they heard Smith shouting at them, something which he believed would provoke a confrontation.

He ran across the road and punched Mr Harris hard in the face. There was a struggle and Smith lashed out and Mr Harris was stunned. Suddenly, Smith put him into a hold and bit the side of his face.

Mr Harris later said it felt as if he was trying to rip the side of his face off.

Seconds later, Smith rugby tackled Ms Ford.

Mr Harris was taken to hospital and the wound was stitched under anaesthetic. He was shocked and upset, and underwent regular blood tests to check he had no infections.

Ms Ford had grazing to her knees, scratch marks and sore ribs.

Smith was traced through CCTV footage and, said Mr Trigg, was well known to the police.

He was said to have convictions for a public order offence, assaulting the police, shoplifting, battery and theft.

Claire Pickthall representing him said: "He had a difficult childhood and has had difficulties with alcohol. There was no justification for what he did and it involved mistaken identity. He was gutted when he thought of the injuries he inflicted on Mr Harris."

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Leekes store introduces new Monsoon bed linen for spring

UPDATING bed linen is a quick and easy way of giving your bedroom a whole new look – and what better way to inject some fresh, spring colour into your boudoir than with the new ranges from famous high-street name, Monsoon?

Sally Coombes, bed linen expert at Leekes, said: "Like we have in other rooms in the house, we're moving away from the good old neutral palette and gaining confidence when it comes to colour.

"As the 2011 collections from Monsoon shows, it's all about subtle colour additions that are lifting the overall look and feel of the bedroom, rather than an invasion of abstract pattern and acid brights, she said.

"It's a great time to be giving your bedroom a whole new look, Sally added."

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'We aim to raise awareness on consequences of cuts'

– SAYS LOCAL CAMPAIGN GROUP

ADVERTISING FEATURE

TRADE UNIONS and community groups throughout the Vale have united to campaign against proposed cuts.

The 'Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts' (VGAC) group says it is working to raise awareness of the impact that the cuts are having and will increasingly have within the local community.

VGAC is concerned about the long-term impacts that will arise within Cardiff and Vale healthcare as a result of the £80 million shortfall that will arise from the April 2011 budget. The group says that with such a massive budget shortfall, coupled with the application of recruitment freezes in certain areas, the impact for patients could be catastrophic.

VGAC is also alarmed that attacks are being made on essential services such as school crossing patrols and youth offending services, and that so-called non-essential services such as leisure are under increasing threat of privatisation.

With further job losses expected to be announced soon, VGAC is determined to engage the community and provide a voice for people who are against public spending cuts.

Jenny Griffin, VGAC spokesperson, said: "We are experiencing the biggest challenge for a generation. The Westminster government is making a political choice to cut Baby Bonds, Child Benefit and Sure Start – and they now have Disability Living Allowance and Incapacity Benefit in their sights.

"It is shocking to see services such as school crossing patrols facing attack – it is the right of every single school child to travel to school safely, and that level of safety is being put in jeopardy to save money.

"In Wales, we are experiencing a substantial budget reduction. There is already an education funding gap of £604 per pupil in our education system – yet Mr Cameron claims that Wales is receiving a 'fair deal'. Frankly, I don't think Wales is receiving a fair deal.

"It really is an insult to our communities and those that work hard to deliver services to support those communities. Our society and welfare state is being made to pay because of the mistakes made by the financial sector.

"There is £123 billion of uncollected, avoided and evaded taxes that could be collected by the UK government – yet they would rather allow those less well off in society to take the pain.

"VGAC is working to highlight these issues."

The Vale of Glamorgan Against the Cuts campaign has launched a Facebook page under the same name.

An event has also been scheduled to take place on March 12 at Barry Town Hall.

A brass band will be playing and campaign coordinators will be available to talk about any cuts or service reductions that might be concerning local people.

For further information about how to get involved, or to join the campaign group as an individual, or as a community group, please contact Jenny Griffin on 029 20729463.

(SEE UNISON ADVERT IN THIS WEEK'S GEM)

After the conclusive 'YES' vote in the Referendum on streamlining the work of the National Assembly...

WALES IS MOVING ON!

IT has been heartening to hear the wide range of positive responses to the result of the Referendum last week, which gave a clear expression of public opinion by voting to improve the way laws are made in Wales.

I have enjoyed the last few weeks of discussion on the doorstep, in shopping areas and at meetings explaining what the referendum was all about and encouraging my constituents to vote Yes last Thursday.

My simple message was that it would make Wales a stronger part of the UK, ensuring that laws that only affect Wales, such as health, transport, housing and education, are dealt with in Wales.

With the combined efforts of all those involved in the Referendum campaign, the message got through to enough people to win the vote last Thursday with a respectable turn-out in the Vale of Glamorgan, given the constitutional complexities of the Referendum.

But I am also clear that we owe it to those who voted No or didn't vote at all, that we still have to prove our worth and serve their needs and meet their concerns.

Over the past year, I have been negotiating with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Danny Alexander MP, to make the case for Wales to have more flexibility in the level and management of our finances.

The One Wales Government appointed an independent Commission chaired by the economist, Professor Gerry Holtham, which reported last year.

The Commission concluded that we are underfunded by £300million as a result of the application of the out-dated Barnett formula, which is used to calculate our share of funding from the UK Government.

Gerry Holtham has proposed that a funding 'floor' be implemented to prevent further funding shortfalls emerging via this formula.

His recommendations received unanimous all-party support in the Assembly.

The Chief Secretary has said the UK Government would consider the Holtham recommendations after the Referendum and cited the importance of reducing the budget deficit as a priority.

We are playing our part in this respect, choosing to absorb the £163m revenue and capital budget cuts imposed on us last year and securing Assembly support for a budget for 2011–13, which seeks to protect our public services and support our economic recovery. I have now written to the Chief Secretary to say that

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Assembly Minister for Business and Budget)

the positive result from the Referendum should now give the green light to opening meaningful discussions about the Holtham Commission recommendations for fairer funding mechanisms for Wales.

The First Minister, Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM made a statement to the Assembly on Tuesday, March 8 on 'the next steps' following the positive result on Thursday and he said that moving forward with the Holtham recommendations was part of the work that needed to be taken forward.

We have a range of responsibilities as elected representatives and Ministers serving in the National Assembly for Wales, crafting the right policies for Wales, ensuring that we have an adequate funding base and developing legislation when it is appropriate to do so.

As Carwyn Jones said this week: *"Thursday's Referendum was more than the streamlining of the law-making process – it demonstrated that Wales is an ambitious country, eager to get on."*

I am eager to play my part, as Finance Minister, to ensure we have an adequate funding base, albeit constrained by UK Government cuts, taking our share of the budget deficit reduction, but making the clear case for an improved and fairer settlement.

We engage with the UK Government with a stronger voice as a result of last week's vote and as one young person who went out to vote yes, said to me on Friday: *"The world has moved on as a result of the vote!"*

This is about us showing that we have got confidence to do the best we can for Wales – our economy, our communities, our young people and senior citizens.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you more effectively as a result of the positive outcome of the Referendum last Thursday.

ACTION COFFEE

ACTION Medical Research is holding a coffee morning in St Helen's Church Hall, Wyndham Street, Barry, on Tuesday, March 15 at 10.30am-noon, courtesy of the Mayor of the Vale. Tickets £1.50, to include tea/coffee and a biscuit.

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BARRY PROVIDES STRENGTH AND VARIETY IN ITS LOCAL ECONOMY!

by TIM CHAPMAN

The health of any economy is the provision of a wide variety of businesses, offering a number of services – and on both counts Cardiff Road and the local industrial estates score highly.

Not only are there service-related companies offering vital support to the local community and other businesses, there are manufacturers and product providers, too.

Glamorgan Garden Timber Products is a niche supplier of 'garden furniture'.Philip Harding, the manager, explained: "We have fencing, trellis work, bird houses, garden chairs, picnic benches and wishing wells.

"The products are made in Bridgend, but shortly we will be making them in the unit next door."

The company, which opened last year, can even supply small quantity orders the same day.

With the spring and summer months under way, it is expecting a busy time, as local people plan what to do in their gardens this year.

The astonishing variety of the businesses in the area is shown by Baymarine Services (Marine) Ltd, which offers its services not just in the UK but abroad too.

Ian Morgan explained: "Baymarine Services is involved in the tank cleaning, engine room cleaning and painting in the marine industry.

"We carry this work out and deal with either the owners' or contractors' account. We regularly work in European and UK dry docks as well as tank farms and factory sites, we also do sea going and wet dock work.

"While most of our work is charged at an hourly rate, where there is clear specification and/or tender documents we can quote a fixed rate."

'Business to business' companies feature prominently in the Cardiff Road area.

Corona Lighting is celebrating 20 years of trading this year.

The managing director, Matthew Day, said: "We are a wholesale business which offers commercial lighting for business use, and a large range of energy saving products."

Another 'B2B' company is The Business Centre.

Its manager, James Mason, pointed out: "At The Business Centre, we have a number of years experience within the serviced office industry and understand that along with competitive prices we need to offer the highest level of customer service and professional outlook for usinesses.

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(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

The Business Centre – a key cog in the Vale's economy.

ABOVE: For a cheerful early morning welcome and great snacks and meals, people can visit Bakers Baguettes.

The industrial estates in Barry are a vital part of a vibrant local economy.

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CARDIFF ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATES
More than meets the eye!

Matthew Thomas of Asguard helps with asbestos removal and surveys.

Glamorgan Garden Timber Products is a niche supplier of 'garden furniture'.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

"We also have a free on-site gymnasium for all in-house clients and an in-house coffee shop, The Coffee Zone."

People can approach The Business Centre for prices and the latest offers.

For people concerned about the removal of asbestos, Asguard could provide the solution. The managing director, Matthew Thomas, who is Barry born and bred, commented: "We can do asbestos removal and asbestos surveys. We also have a '24 hour' service which can respond to emergencies."

The company started in 2005 and is HSE licensed. Manufacturing and B2B companies are also complemented in the Palmerston and Cadoxton areas by strong retail concerns.

VFM Meat Supplies, owned by Simon Nash, has a simple, but effective mission statement.

Simon revealed: "We aim to cut out the middleman to keep prices low.

He stressed: "We offer something different from supermarkets, cutting the meat freshly every day on the premises – everything is done in-house. We offer best quality and because of bulk buying, we are able to pass savings on to our customers.

VFM is open seven days a week, from 7.30am to 5.30pm every day, apart from Sunday, when it is open from 9am to 2pm.

For those wanting a cheery welcome and something to eat in the morning, there are few better places to visit than Bakers Baguettes, which offers a £1.99 breakfast deal from 7.30am to 11am.

Angela Baker, the owner, said: "We provide a wide selection of baguettes, sandwiches, paninis, hot foods like chicken curries, omlettes, jacket potatoes, tea and coffee and soft drinks."

Bakers Baguettes trades Monday to Friday, from 7.30am to 3pm.

1st Line Taxis runs 40 vehicles throughout the Vale, but the manager Mr Iqbal Miah promised: "We'll go anywhere in the world!"

Most journeys take place in and around the Vale and to Cardiff. During the day the taxis are not on a meter which means prices are kept down. A trip from Barry centre to the outskirts of the town can start for as little as £4. A return trip to Cardiff starts from £30.

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PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS ROUND-UP

Paddling in the footsteps of the Vale's Iolo Morgannwg!

SIX ramblers headed by Rachel, made their way to the pretty village of Llanbethery and were shown a dummy airstrip, put in place to lure enemy aircraft away from the RAF airbase at nearby St Athan.

Getting their boots wet!

The lane comes to an abrupt end at the Thaw Valley, where the River Thaw winds its way down to Aberthaw on its journey to the sea. They were met with flooding, but paddled across the valley to join the footpath to Flemingston.

On Flemingston Moor there once stood a medieval village but there are no traces, except for a mention on the OS Map. Reaching Flemingston Court, an early 16th century fortified manor house, the group heard about Iolo Morgannwg, Bardic name of Edward Williams, who was born at Pen-onn near Llancarfan, but raised in Flemingston.

In 1789, he produced a collection of poems by Dafydd ap Gwilym from the late 14th century, including poems he had allegedly found, and in 1792 he founded the Gorsedd community of Welsh bards in London.

After his death, it was discovered that he had written many poems and passed them off as well known poets' work.

The group made their way by track and field to St Hilary, where they could look back towards Beaupre Castle, home of the Bassett family.

They passed East Down and cut across fields to The Garn, passing close to the ruined 16th century Llantrithyd Place whose hidden landscaped garden is apparently deemed as important as Aberglasney, which is set in the Tywi Valley in Carmarthenshire.

The group stopped at St Illtyd's church for lunch, sitting in a sun trap surrounded by snowdrops, crocus and daffodils, then made their way back to Llantrithyd.

On March 12, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 9-mile mod/hard walk taking in Black Mountain, Table Mountain and Pen Allt Mawr; contact Liz on 029 2051 3698.

On March 13, meet at 9am at Cogan for an 11-mile moderate walk at Monmouth, the Kymin, Newland and Redbrook; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On March 15, the mid-week walk will leave Sully church at 10.30am for a 6/7-mile easy/moderate walk in the area; contact Viv and Val on 029 2053 1045.

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Staff swim from Dover to Calais!

Above: A route map in case they got lost on the way!

Splashing out for the Breast Care Centre

EMPLOYEES from the Ortho Clinical Diagnostics (OCD) facility in Pencoed took to the water recently, taking up a challenge to raise funds for the Breast Centre Cardiff and Vale at Llandough Hospital.

As part of the popular 'Lengths for Life' fund raising campaign, employees chose to take a dip at nearby Pencoed Swimming Pool, using their lunchtime breaks as the perfect opportunity to complete lengths.

Funds raised by the campaign will be used to purchase equipment for the Breast Care Centre and invest in new technology.

A spokeswoman said: "Staff were set the challenge of swimming the equivalent of the English Channel during the month of February. The trip from Dover to Calais and back is an impressive 52.4 mile in total, which translates to 3,372 lengths of the pool.

"A total of 27 swimmers took part, including Commonwealth swimmer Sara Lougher (who is the daughter of an OCD engineer), clocking up the lengths at lunch time in Pencoed Pool.

"Not only was the target met and the return trip to Calais completed but the group went on to swim an additional 701 lengths. The team can now officially add to the 'Lengths for Life' total having raised an impressive £2,000 so far."

Pencoed swimming pool centre manager, David Howley commented: "It's great to have people using our facility to raise money for charity.

"Lunchtime swimming is increasingly popular, as it offers customers a chance to unwind during a busy day. We've enjoyed getting behind the team and all of us at the centre would like to say congratulations to everyone who took part."

Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig dress up for Saint David!

CHILDREN and staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig really got into the spirit of St David's Day, with a variety of events for the children

They made a special effort to dress up in traditional Welsh costumes and wore Welsh rugby and football shirts.

A special whole school St David's Day service was held and Headteacher Mrs Sian Owen said, "It was lovely to see a sea of red in front of my eyes during the service and hearing the children sing the Welsh National Anthem was a special moment and very emotional.

Year 2 pupils also held a St David's Day service for parents and governors of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig. Mrs Catherine Jones, a school governor, said, "It was a memorable service which left me feeling very proud to be Welsh!"

Pupils around the school also got a chance to bake and eat traditional Welsh cakes with the help of headteacher Mrs Owen.

The children dressed in their traditional Welsh costumes.

• Children of Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Curig pictured in their traditional Welsh costumes on St David's Day.

VALE PACT

COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, March 10 at 7pm;
GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, March 25 at 6pm;
DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, March 29 at 6pm;
PENDOYLAN Community Council, Pendoylan School, March 10 at 7.45pm;
LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, Llantwit Leisure Centre, March 22 at 7pm;
STANWELL PACT, Stanwell Comprehensive School, 7pm.
If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

What town thought when market was under threat

WHEN The GEM went out and about in Cowbridge last week to ask local people what they felt should the historic cattle market be forced to close, the mood was downbeat – but then no-one was expecting it to have a reprieve! (*See story on page 1*)

Our snap survey followed speculation that the market would close at the end of the month, after negotiations between the Vale Council and the operators, Glamorgan Marts, broke down.

We asked people what they wanted to see happen to the cattle market: 25% of those asked wanted to see a car park there; 75% wanted the cattle market to stay, and nobody wanted to see another supermarket built on the site.

At present, the cattle market is open only on Tuesday each week. The rest of the time the site is used as a car park for people visiting the town.

When interviewed after parking his car on the cattle market site, **Mr Roger Helliwell** said, in reference to the market: "For the use that it gets, better it be closed."

There has been speculation that the site is being considered for development by a supermarket. When asked if he would prefer a supermarket there, Mr Halliwell said: "I don't know if a supermarket is the answer."

Should the site be a car park, five days a week, rather than four?

Mr. Harris, whose wife is a farmer's daughter, stressed we would be "losing our heritage." He admitted the site was used more as a car park nowadays but did not want to see the market go.

Mr. Newbury, a resident of Llantrisant, said the market was "hardly used." His lack of concern for its closure was echoed by **Mrs Gibson,** who said she was "not affected" and "just used the town for shopping."

Mr. Owens and **Mrs Doreen Lewis** each expressed concern for the distance farmers would have to travel to trade. Mrs. Lewis has a nephew who travels from west Wales to Cowbridge market each week.

Adrian Evans, county executive officer for Farmers Union Wales, understood their angst. He said that he was "very surprised that there was no consultation with farmers," concerning the decision to close.

Having written to the Vale Council on behalf of FUW, Mr Evans described the market as a "vital service and very important to economic life in the Vale."

Heather Mo, an employee of The Horse and Groom, agreed with his sentiments. She described the closure as a "shame" and the "end of an era."

Kelvyn Dark told how he had only seen a small number of farmers attend the market in recent times. As a stone mason working in the vicinity of the market, he described it as an "eyesore" and said a "supermarket would bring more people into the town."

However, it has been argued that the closure of the market derterring farmers from visiting Cowbridge, will have a profound affect on local tradesmen.

Peter John, from the agricultural retailer, Arthur John, said there was "considerable concern for the effect the market closure would have on the business."

His work colleague, **Bill Jones** said that "with the closure, farmers will go to Abergavenny and Carmarthen markets. They will be the towns that benefit instead of Cowbridge."

There are conflicting views over how the closure will affect local businesses.

Deborah Parker said that a "supermarket rather than a cattle market would be more likely to bring passing trade to the boutiques in the town."

One resident, who did not want to be named, made the point that "while there is no other use for the site it should stay open. It characterises Cowbridge and it would be a shame to see it go after all these years."

The general consensus was that it does not make sense to lose the cattle market when there is no suitable replacement for the value it brings to Cowbridge.

It begs the question, when the town says goodbye to the cattle market at the end of this month, what will be an appropriate substitute?

JO PRICE

Leisure centre prices set to rise

THE Vale Council is to increase its charges for leisure activities by 3.75 per cent at the end of this month.

The prices will rise on April 1, and all prices will be rounded up to the nearest five pence.

Back on January 1, 2010, the council froze the prices of certain leisure centre activities for a 15-month period. Included in the freeze were swimming charges, health suite and gym fees, and the membership of classes.

April 1 sees the end of that period, and the new price scale was revealed to the scrutiny committee (economy and environment), on Tuesday (March 8).

The two main factors behind the price rise, says the report, are the rise in VAT from 17.5 to 20 per cent (which came into force on January 1) and the rising cost of energy – something that "leisure centres are very dependent on".

The only area that might escape the rise is Life Style and Fitness. The report says that these provide the largest income and the most profit.

As a result, the council is conducting a market survey to check whether a price rise would have a "detrimental effect".

If the answer comes back that it would be detrimental, there will be further discussion with the cabinet member for tourism and leisure, Coun Anthony Ernest.

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GEM RURAL PROFILE

Promoting NATIONAL PET MONTH April 2nd - May 2nd

The rural Vale builds on its timeless virtues, to develop a bright future

by PHILIP IRWIN

AT the very heart of the rural Vale – and this is hardly a surprise – is the hands-on role played by local farmers.

The local countryside is inextricably linked to the type of farming that takes place, whether it be the wide open spaces along the coast where sheep graze, or the fields divided by neat hedgerows that line the many lanes in the area.

It could be argued that those hedgerows and fences have kept non-farmers out, fostering a town and country mentality – but things are changing rapidly, as Adrian Evans, the county executive officer at the Farmers' Union of Wales, told The GEM.

He said: "The farming community is aiming to invite more people to visit working farms, which are fascinating places."

"On June 12, farmers will be inviting visitors to discover at first hand all about life on Britain's farms and find out for themselves what happens beyond the farm gate. This annual event is a must for anyone interested in how farmers produce our food, and the ways they care for our countryside too."

The event is called 'Open Farm Sunday' and the Welsh regional co-ordinator, Eira Edwards,commented: "We often hear farmers say no-one will be interested in my farm – but those who haven't taken part will be surprised!"

She added that a series of workshops is available to farmers, run by LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming), to help them plan to welcome visitors.

The first takes place on Monday, March 14, at Slade Farm in St Bride's Major.

Annabel Shackleton, an Open Farm Sunday manager, said: "Last year, more people attended Open Farm Sunday events than Glastonbury, and we're keen to build on that success and see even more farms across the country taking part.

"The workshops themselves are relaxed and informal – there is something for everyone, however large or small an event."

Now in its sixth year, Open Farm Sunday gives the public the opportunity to discover where their food comes from and how farmers care for the countryside.

More than 450 farms across the UK are expected to open. The scheme has proved good for both hosts and guests, as Annabel explained: "There are real business benefits too for those farmers who host events.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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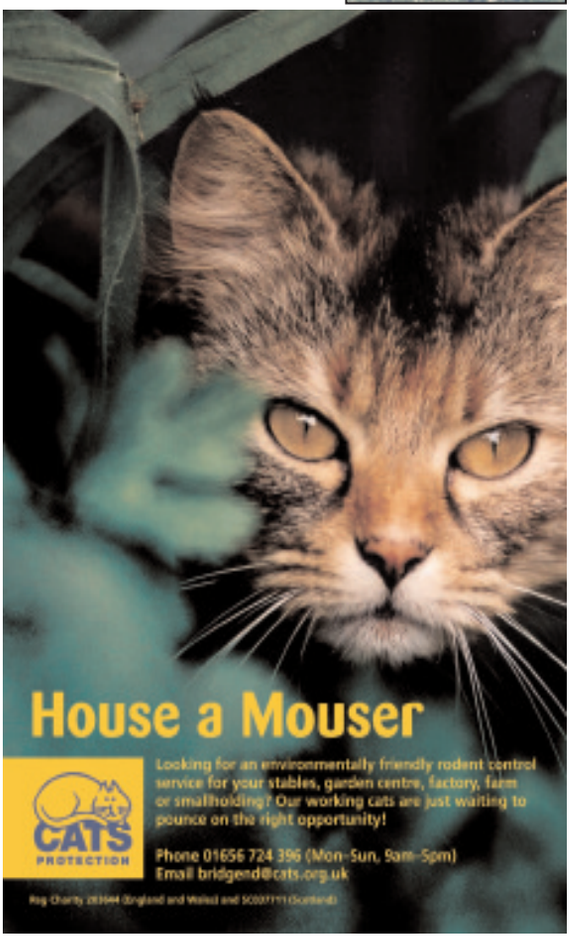

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GEM RURAL PROFILE

Promoting NATIONAL PET MONTH April 2nd - May 2nd

(Continued from page 17)

"It can help you improve sales, learn new marketing skills, and build staff morale and a sense of pride, as well as improving relationships with the local community."

To find out which farms in your area are taking part, visit www.farmsunday.org.

Farmers can book a place on a workshop, or get in touch with their regional coordinator, by telephoning LEAF on 02476 413 911 or by emailing annabel.shackleton@leafuk.org.

A GREAT PLACE TO DO BUSINESS!

There is a strong recognition these days that diversification should be a strong element in the business plan for farmers, particularly in the Vale. Things have moved on in recent years and now many farms are creating new rural businesses in a variety of areas.

Outside Cowbridge, John Homfray has developed a composting business which now takes all the kitchen waste and green waste from the Vale Council's street collections.

Many farms are looking at solar powered roof paneling or small wind turbines to supply their own electricity and sell the balance back to the National Grid.

A new scheme, administered by the Vale Council's Creative Rural Communities team, will be offering grant aid to encourage farming businesses to branch out into medium and budget price holiday accommodation – perhaps good quality bunk houses, or caravan and campsite provision.

This grant aid is also available for guided nature tours or 'rural skills packages'.

However, amid all the new ideas for developing the rural economy, the traditional areas remain strong.

One company with great faith in the future of the Vale is Frank Sutton Ltd, who hold the John Deere franchise and moved to St Mary Hill in the Vale just over a year ago.

Ben Sutton told The GEM: "We always did business in the Vale, but felt that our base in Raglan was not near enough.

"*This is our first full season here and the response has been excellent. The Vale is definitely a great place to do business!*"

Delight as Cowbridge Cattle Market is given a reprieve!

THERE was delight in the farming community this week when it was announced that Cowbridge Cattle Market will continue for at least another 12 months.

The threatened closure meant that livestock would have to be transported to the nearest markets at Carmarthen or Abergavenny.

The threatened closure had also been opposed by local town and community councils.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE YOUR STAKE?

SCATS Farm & Country in Bridgend is offering customers the chance to stock up on a range of products ahead of the fencing season, with a discount event from March 14-27, and special offers on more than 35 different lines.

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Justin Lewis, store manager in Bridgend, said, "We have some simply outstanding offers and discounts in store from March 14, providing the perfect opportunity for local farmers, contractors, smallholders and horse owners to check their fencing provision before turning animals out this spring."

The farm and country store, based on the Brackla Industrial Estate in Bridgend, sources more than 90 per cent of its wood products from the UK, with the vast majority of suppliers having Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, so customers can be assured that the wood they buy has been managed in a responsible manner.

All wood on sale has been pressure treated to increase the life expectancy of the timber, giving customers more for their money.

The following special offers will be available between March 14 and 27: 10% off Rylock Stock fence; 10% off selected metal gates; 10% off selected wood gates; 25% off field gate hinge sets; round fencing stakes from £1.05 (ex vat); and strainer posts from £3.25 (ex vat)

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Get on stage with a live band!

A NEW-STYLE 'Jam night' is to start at the Stage Door in the Grand Pavilion, giving singers and musicians a chance to play with a live band.

The open jam night is for all ages and abilities, and features the house band, 'Mojomatic'.

A spokeswoman said: "Come along and play in a professional venue with stage lighting and sound provided. All musicians are welcome to play, either as a band, solo artists, singers or with the house band."

The next three scheduled dates are: April 5, May 12 and June 16.

Anyone wishing to perform with the house band should email Nikki at furnessjones@aol.com and list the songs you would like to perform, or contact 07916 342370.

Damon and Blunt shine in a truly charming tale

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

IF the success of the *Bourne* films has achieved anything, then it's making quite a big star out of Matt Damon; having taken the ball and run with it in the likes of *Green Zone, The Informant!* and *True Grit*, the star is now in a position where he can choose to work with any leading director.

So it is all the more refreshing to see him work with first-time director George Nolfi in *The Adjustment Bureau*.

Damon plays David Norris, a political candidate whose disillusionment with his election is tempered by a chance meeting with a woman called Elise (Emily Blunt). She vanishes into the night, only for Norris to track her down again on the bus; however, this second meeting sets off alarm bells and a shadowy group, known only as *The Adjustment Bureau*, must stop David and Elise from being together...

The Adjustment Bureau is a difficult film to classify; perhaps its closest relative is *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, in as much as both films deal with love, albeit with a peculiar twist. The difference is that *The Adjustment Bureau* is all about that first meeting, the infinite possibilities of love, mixed with an existential look at how important fate and free will are in our lives – it is also an absolutely mesmerising piece of cinema.

George Nolfi is hardly a newcomer, having written the final part of the Bourne franchise, along with *Ocean's 12* and *The Sentinel* among others, but this is his first time behind the camera, something that very rarely shows.

Nolfi's direction is particularly stylish, the film making the most of the New York location. He stamps a visual identity on the film, yet grounds the more peculiar aspects so that you concentrate wholly on the story.

A muted use of special effects adds a degree of urgency to proceedings, but all is marshalled with aplomb by Nolfi, whose work with the likes of Paul Greengrass and Steven Soderbergh has seemingly rubbed off.

Loosely adapted from a Philip K Dick story, Nolfi's script is also well executed. Starting off as a love story with a clever meet-cute, Nolfi then throws in the curveball of the bureau, which suddenly takes the story into a new realm.

However, Nolfi's subtle way of introducing this element of the story works superbly; while just exactly who the bureau are goes unanswered, yet is hinted at, it doesn't annoy or anger, Nolfi concentrating more on characterisation than fanciful notions.

The film plays on two levels without feeling overdone or undercooked and he weaves in the notions of love and fate, yet doesn't labour upon them to the detriment of the pacing, keeping the story moving at all times.

There are more than a few plot holes if you are willing to look hard enough, the passing of time seemingly failing to dampen love no matter how poorly you've been treated in particular, but Nolfi's script works very well, adding a dollop of wry humour into the mix and keeping things light.

Of course, in love stories, existential or not, you need to have two characters, and actors, who convince you to root for them, and both Matt Damon and Emily Blunt do an exceedingly good job of that here.

Damon, who has hit a rich vein of form lately, is wholly engaging as a man who is driven and ambitious, yet shows a hint of fragility beneath the surface, and as the story progresses, carries the weight of events.

Damon does the role of man fighting against the odds well.

Opposite him, Emily Blunt is absolutely wonderful. You can wholly buy into the character of David falling head over heels for her. She is witty and full of charisma, yet also beguilingly tender as the bureau try and keep the two apart.

Given their mysterious origins, the men from the bureau tasked with stopping the pair aren't short of character. Anthony Mackie is quietly dignified as the agent tasked with following Norris, and whose empathy for the pair's plight sets the narrative ball rolling.

John Slattery parlays his *Mad Men* cool into a sardonic agent who almost seems resigned to the eventual outcome; with Terrence Stamp as the bureau agent known as 'The Hammer' exuding casual menace, there is nary a weak turn on show from the cast.

While the eventual outcome comes straight from the romance genre cliché book, it almost slips by unnoticed, so wholly are you rooting for the two characters.

What Nolfi has succeeded in doing is merging two disparate genres, creating a film that is a truly wonderful watch; *The Adjustment Bureau* is a captivating way to spend 105 minutes of your life.

VERDICT – A tender love story wrapped up in layers of questions about fate, free will and the choices we make, *The Adjustment Bureau* is a superb piece of work.

Well scripted and directed by George Nolfi, coupled with excellent turns by a top-notch cast, in particular Matt Damon and Emily Blunt, *The Adjustment Bureau* is a charmingly intelligent effort.

Highly recommended.

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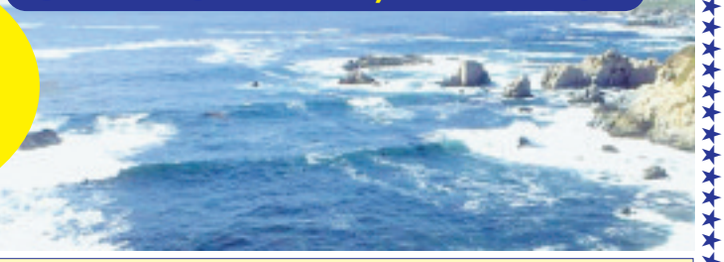

It looks like being a classic summer season here at the Ocean Lounge. With a few more improvements, and some changes to the menu with a new specials board, we are definitely worth visiting.

All RBS Rugby Matches shown on large TV Screens.

Can you be entertained?
Mixing it up a bit more this year! As well as cabaret nights on a Saturday we will be having some bands and comedians, plus a mixture of other acts on a Friday (Easter onwards) such as karaoke, theme nights, band nights, comedy nights, and drag artists, there is something for everyone. It's the only place to go to over the Bank holiday weekends, with 3 big nights of entertainment. Keep an eye out for what's coming.

And to eat? We offer a great value menu from only £4.99 with traditional family favourites, plus some more unusual fayre too. Don't forget our Curry with a pint on Thursday evenings from the end of May onwards. It's been really popular, with home made curries changing weekly, plus the Thursday quiz. Sunday lunch from £6.95 offers exceptional value for a table served meal in relaxed surroundings without the hustle and the bustle of the usual carvery fare. Booking for lunch is definitely recommended.

The location? With fantastic views from the cliff top overlooking the Bristol Channel, with views to The Knap and the historic islands of Steepholm and Flatholm, and on a clear day across to Weston it is a great place to find refreshment with the large cliff top patio and outdoor seating. And yet only a 10 minute trip from Barry or Llantwit Major.

What else? A large car park and pleasant location makes us an ideal place to hold a wedding reception, birthday party, conference or any private function. In short, a great place, serving good food and good beer, with a great atmosphere!

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BRAINS

Out and About with The GEM

Art exhibition in Penarth gallery opens

AN exhibition opens this week at the Washington Gallery, staged by Penarth Arts and Crafts Ltd (PACL) entitled 'Tracks and Traces' – a collaboration between photographer Sam Hughes and printmaker Joseph (Jo) Field.

Work will be displayed in the lower gallery from March 7 – March 26, with an opening night on Friday (March 11) from 7pm – 9pm. Entrance is £2 and there is a pay bar available.

Jo Field is exhibiting a series of collagraphs, 'Rural tensions', which are a personal comment on the tensions and pressures faced by rural communities in the early part of the 21st Century.

Sam Hughes' photographs, taken inside the Penarth Pavilion last autumn, aim to depict the mysterious beauty that can be found in dereliction.

Said Sam: "I was recently given an opportunity to see the (Pavilion) Ballroom and was amazed by both the degree of dereliction and the enduring vibrancy of the colours.

"In its poignant state, there is still a fascinating beauty."

LOCAL EISTEDDFOD GROUP SET TO MEET

THE first meeting of the local committee that has taken on the task of raising money to support the 2012 National Eisteddfod when it comes to Llandow, will take place on Monday, March 14, at 7pm in Illtud's 216 restaurant, Llantwit Major.

Each area of the Vale has been asked to raise funds for the event, and Ros Lewis is the spokeswoman for the group covering St Donat's, Llantwit, Llanmaes and St Athan.

She said: "Our group has a rather challenging target of £42,500, and we would like as many people to get involved in the fundraising as possible.

"This is a chance to come along and meet members of the organising committee and discuss how to get involved."

There will be free coffee at the meeting. For further information, contact Ros Lewis on 01446 793530, or by e-mail on rlewis@llantwit.orangehome.co.uk

Crockery from a feminist viewpoint!

RIGHT: Ann Townson and Mel Palmer-Forse celebrate International Women's Day.

PAINTER Ann Townson and ceramic sculptor Mel Palmer-Forse give feminist perspectives on domestic crockery in an exhibition, 'In House', celebrating 100 years of International Women's Day, at the Travellers Gallery, Broad Street Station, Barry until April 7.

Both artists are members of VOGA (Vale of Glamorgan Artists) and volunteer their time and professional expertise in partnership with Mind in the Vale to help run the gallery which is located in the Travellers in Mind Café.

Flower arrangers

PENCOED Flower Arranging Society have a meeting on Monday, March 21 at 7pm in Pencoed College, with a talk by Kevin Thomas of Pencoed on 'The Flower Arranger's Garden'. Everyone welcome. Contact 01656 657796.

Gardening talk

A G'NIGHT with the Waltons – Terry Walton – is offered by Cowbridge Gardening Club at 7.30pm on Thursday, March 31.

Terry Walton is well known in the gardening world for his horticultural spot on the Jeremy Vine show on Radio 2.

He has had an allotment for over 50 years on the same site, and will be keen to pass on his gardening knowledge.

Most of his skills and knowledge have been passed down from experienced gardeners and he grows organically.

The meeting will be in the lesser hall, Cowbridge. New members are welcome at £6 for one year's subscription. Visitors can attend on any evening for £2.

Ty Hafan lottery results

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D660.

- ***£2,000: 329031.***
- ***The rollover, which now stands at £1,000, was not won this week.***
- ***£10:*** *5 8 9 2 1 5, 821202, 392022, 629840, 208402, 501235, 548899, 594699, 518342, 750958, 382336, 530046, 699366, 416556, 336487, 814503, 492041, 473905, 751880, 547348.*
- ***£5:*** *865483, 586714, 430048, 273534, 551204, 202911, 146910, 451731, 893398, 485143, 393382, 730249, 475492, 650576, 269646, 204480, 787326, 261370, 419791, 871462, 330576, 102658, 502043, 544196, 779203, 423844, 728863, 167168, 364333, 763729, 595422, 330863, 109961, 268401, 546968, 881630, 280383, 304132, 612783, 227418, 838941, 238693, 723064, 450042, 653213, 109777, 841385, 128383, 253536, 755397, 757963, 388750, 423643, 514766, 705997, 236455, 218169, 363943, 441396, 156741.*

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

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www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Pippa is looking for a home

Pippa loves to play.

THIS WEEK Linda Feagan highlights Pippa, an eight-month-old collie/lab cross who loves her food and her toys.

She also enjoys a rough and tumble play in the field with other dogs. She is quite strong-minded, so will need an owner who is used to training similar characters. She would also enjoy living with another, calm dog.

*To know more about Pippa, call the centre on **01656 725219**, or visit Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend. You can also see Pippa's friends on our website at **www.dogstrust.org.uk***

Back for 2011...

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Fairtrade fun

THE Llantwit Major benefice will be celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight in style at the Old School community centre, St Athan village on Friday, March 11 with morning coffee at 10am-12midday and afternoon tea, 2pm-4pm.

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £389,995

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BOVERTON - £249,500

Well maintained modern four bedroom detached house with attached garage and conservatory comprising Hallway, Dining Room, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Cloakroom, Luxury Bathroom, Utility Room in Garage. UPVC double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Freehold Ref 522D

LLANMAES - £395,000

Well presented circa 1800 detached stone built cottage with stone outbuilding and double garage. Spacious accommodation comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Rear Porch, Dining Room with Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows. Original features. Good size gardens with rural outlook. Freehold Ref 525D

ST ATHAN - £124,950

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining room with patio doors to the rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Allocated parking space. Gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 532D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £115,000

Modern three bedroom end of link house with UPVC glazed conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge/Diner, Rear Porch/Study area, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to the front and rear. Freehold Ref 545D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,500

Modern Georgian style three bedroom semi-detached house and garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining area, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and neatly laid mature gardens to front Freehold Ref 549D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £139,950

Well maintained three bedroom end of terrace house with garage situated in a block comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Garden to front and rear. Freehold Ref 559D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £155,000

Three bedroom semi-detached house with double glazed Conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway leads to the garage which is currently used as a workshop. Garden to front and rear. No onward chain. Freehold Ref 563D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £235,000

Modern four bedroom detached house with double garage situated at the head of a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and good size gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 567D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £180,000

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, 2nd reception room (formerly the garage), Fitted Kitchen, Rear Hall/Utility area, Modern Bathroom. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 570D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £225,000

Modern well maintained four bedroom semi-detached house with garage comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Breakfast/Utility Room, En-suite and dressing room to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and good size gardens. Freehold Ref 571D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £97,500

Purpose built two bedroom first floor flat which forms part of a retirement housing development comprising Reception Hall with walk-in cupboard, Shower Room, Lounge/Diner, Fitted Kitchen. Gas fired central heating. Communal facilities of laundry room and guest suite. Parking. Leasehold Ref 574D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £137,500

Modern three bedroom family house with garage comprising Porch, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Rear Porch, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Garden to front and rear with rear access to the garage. No onward chain. Freehold Ref 575D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £179,950

Well maintained and presented three bedroom semi-detached house and garage situated on the south side of town comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Newly fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 576D

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £239,950

Modern well presented extended family bungalow and garage comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Dining Room, Conservatory, Ground floor Bathroom, Two bedrooms to ground floor and Master bedroom with en-suite to first floor. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Garden to front and rear, Freehold Viewing recommended Ref 577D.

NEW LLANTWIT MAJOR - £137,500

Modern two bedroom end of link house with attached garage comprising Reception Hall, Lounge, Modern fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Driveway leads to the garage. Low maintenance gardens to front and rear. Freehold Ref 578D

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Public Notices

Charity Commission – CSD-1161C

CHARITY: Sir Thomas Mansel Franklen Trust
REFERENCE: C-202260

The Charity Commission proposes to make a scheme to amend the trusts of this charity.
A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

Cowbridge Comprehensive School
Aberthin Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EN
Telephone - Mrs F Gandy, PA to the Headteacher: 01446 772311

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission Direct, PO Box 1227, Liverpool, L69 3UG, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at

http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/schemesdefault.aspx

Comments or representations can be made within one month from February 17th, 2011.

Notice of application for a Premises Licence under the Gambling Act 2005

Notice is hereby given that:
Coral Racing Ltd of the following address:
Glebe House, Vicarage Drive, Barking, Essex IG11 7NS
is applying for a **Betting (Other)** premises licence under section 159 of the Gambling Act 2005.

The application relates to the following premises: **Coral, 145 Holton Road, Barry CF63 4HP**

The application has been made to: **Licensing Section, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU**

Information about the application is available from the licensing authority, including the arrangements for viewing the details of the application.

Any of the following persons may make representations in writing to the licensing authority about the application:
A person who lives sufficiently close to the premises to be likely to be affected by the authorised activities
A person who has business interests that might be affected by the authorised activities
A person who represents someone in any of the above two categories.

Any representations must be made by the following date: **6th April 2011.**

It is an offence under section 342 of the Gambling Act 2005 if a person, without reasonable excuse, gives to a licensing authority for a purpose connected with that Act information which is false or misleading.

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GEM Family Notices

Family Notices

EDWARDS
Margaret

Peacefully on March 3 at her home in Llanblethian, Margaret Edwards B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., C.P.H. Beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Bryan and Richard, dear mother-in-law of Sarah and Jane, much loved by all her grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, March 14th, service 1.45pm at Llanblethian Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired for the purchase of equipment at the Haematology Dept., Llandough Hospital. Please make cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

WALKER
Jayne Ann

Peacefully after a long illness bravely borne on February 25, 2011 at Marie Curie Hospice, Holme Towers, Penarth, aged 49 years.

Loving wife to Stephen, much-loved mother to Rory and Elin, beloved daughter to Ann and Neil, sister to Catherine.

Will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral service in St Mary Church, Penmark on Monday March 14, 2011 at 2pm, followed by a committal service at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.45pm.

No flowers, please, but donations may be sent to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Towers, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

By Jayne's request, Welsh rugby shirts to be worn at the service, please.

JONES
Guy

Suddenly on March 6th Guy, beloved husband of Jan, devoted father of Nicky and Carrie, father-in-law of Allan and Hugh, much loved Grampy of Bethan, Alex, Dafydd, Harry, Chloe, Angharad and Eluned.

Guy was formerly Chairman of the Vale of Glamorgan Community Health Council.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, March 16th, service 2.15pm at Llanmaes Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu if desired to Llanmaes Church c/o Mr J Robinson, The Ramblers, Llanmaes, Vale of Glamorgan CF61 1XR.

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or **07811 873118** (10)

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£150
01446 750702 (9)

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and **Hinari Multi Attachment Hand Blender with Knife**
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THOMAS
Doctor Peter

Peacefully on February 27 at The Manor House, St Hilary, in his 91st year, Dr Peter Thomas MD of Llysworney. Beloved husband of the late Dorothy, dearly loved father of Philip, Jeremy and Anna-Peta, much loved by all his grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Private family service at Llysworney Church, followed by public service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend on Thursday March 17 at 11.30am.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to British Heart Foundation c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

SMITH, Diane

Peacefully at home following a long illness, Diane was loved by her husband Michael and sons Jeremy and Philip. She also leaves her grandson Arran and granddaughter Angelina.

For 25 years Di was the very popular head of French at St. John's School, Porthcawl and a keen member of Cowbridge choir. Di was an enthusiastic member of Llantwit Major Twinning Association and was chairman for two years.

The funeral service will be held at 9am Saturday 12th March at St.Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major. Cremation will follow at 10.30am at Coychurch Crematorium. Flowers to WA Brown, Funeral Directors, Llantwit Major.

JOHN NEWTON

Aged 78, from Cowbridge.
Died suddenly and tragically taken from the family fold.
Funeral on 21st March at 3.15pm
Coychurch Crematorium.
All flowers welcome - to be sent to WA Brown, Llantwit Major.

Birthdays

Happy 40th Birthday!
Julian Richard FORSYTH
12th March
Enjoy the celebrations.
We love u
oodles'n' oodles
Diane, Ella, Jay
x x x

David Gray
Happy 30th Birthday Daddy
March 9th, 2011

Love from Lucy, Megan, Ella and all the family.
x x x

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Yummy Welsh cakes for their Saint's Day!

THE youngsters and staff at Fun Foundations Day Nursery, Cowbridge, celebrated St David's Day in traditional Welsh style.

"The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed baking Welsh cakes and even more so, eating them!" a spokesperson reported.

Pictures by ROBERT FISHER

PENDOYLAN'S PUPILS ENJOY ST DAVID'S DAY

ABOVE and BELOW: The pupils at Pendylan Church-in-Wales School enjoyed their St David's Day celebrations.

Malefant House, Llanmaes – a real 'GEM'

'Malefant' is located in Llanmaes, a picturesque rural community that on numerous occasions has been voted 'best kept village'. It is conveniently located within a mile of Llantwit Major, 5 miles from the market town of Cowbridge and only 10 miles from the hub of Culverhouse Cross providing an easy link to the M4 or the City of Cardiff. Llantwit Major also boosts a 'park and ride' railway station, bus station, and an array of shops and schools. The Heritage coast is stunning and is less than 3 miles away.

The property offers substantial family living, such as the 18' living room and the 17' sitting room, or the 19' family kitchen and the 15' master bedroom not to mention a 50' rear garden. Other aspects of the property include an entrance hallway, shower room, games room (that can be used as a study), a utility room and 3 further bedrooms with 2 bathrooms.

Outside there are enclosed gardens to the front and the rear with a garage and outbuilding (with potential to become a study or playroom).

All in all, a great property for a growing family searching for a community feel with rural aspects, but without being isolated.

Viewing opportunities are available at most times so please call with your preferred time.

Chris Davies
chris-davies.co.uk
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Amount of Credit	£8495.00
Total Charge For Credit	£1443.20
Total Amount Payable By Customer	£10438.20
GMFV (Optional Final Payment)	£3439.00
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PW Millar

Dafydd boosts mini players

RUGBY STAR Dafydd Hewitt of the Cardiff Blues was selected for the Wales Sevens team in 2007, and captained Wales under-21s at the 2006 under-21 Rugby World Championship.

On Sunday, he came to watch the boys from Barry RFC mini section train (above).

The boys certainly put on a great show for him. Also in the picture are first team coaches Peter Griffiths and Dominic Rees.

Local college's famous five

BRIDGEND College level 3 extended diploma - sport (performance and excellence) students, Will - Griff John, Matthew Screech and Lewis Jones, along with former students Macauley Cook and Cory Hill, have represented Wales at this season's under 20s Six Nations tournament.

All five students played in Wales' first match - a narrow 20-26 defeat against England at Parc y Scarlets, Llanelli.

Wales under-20s captain and second row, Macauley Cook, was awarded man of the match.

Once again, all five students were present in the team's second match, away at Scotland in Stirling.

Wales went on to record a comfortable 33 points to 3 win, with prop Will-Griff John awarded man of the match.

Matthew Screech, Cory Hill and Will-Griff John were part of Wales' under-18s squad in last season's Four Nations tournament, and along with Lewis Jones and Macauley Cook, Cory Hill and Will John have already represented the Blues at regional level.

VALE WINNERS AT POINT-TO-POINT

ON AND OFF THE TURF
with Brian Lee

THERE were some exciting finishes at the Brecon and Talybont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Llanfrynach, where Nick Williams, assistant trainer at Evan Williams' yard, rode a brilliant race on Jeff Bird's *Minsgill Mans* to land the men's open race.

Nick, younger brother to National Hunt jockey Christian Williams, brought the 13-year-old bay gelding with a good run in the closing stages to win by eight lengths from Robert Rowsell's French-bred *Dreux.*

Minsgill Mans was the oldest horse in the race and Mr Bird, who lives in the Vale, said of his horse: "He has won over the course three times now and has won 12 of his 23 races."

The ladies' open race was a much closer affair with last year's winner *Upton Legend,* partnered by Jane Williams, getting home by a short head from the fast finishing *Bosham Mill,* ridden by Lucy Pearce.

Minella For Food, who used to be trained by Evan Williams, took the confined race under Josh Harris, who rides out for Evan Williams. The eight-year-old bay gelding by *Saddler's Hall,* gave Josh's sister Grace her first ever winner as a trainer.

Chandlers Cross, who was caught on the line after making all the running to be beaten by a neck, was disqualified from second place as his rider Paul Tolman, on dismounting, did not go straight into the weighing-in tent.

The third horse, *Micks Prospect,* was promoted to second place and the stewards fined Tolman £60.

Pembrokeshire's John Mathias had plenty to smile about. He had a walk-over in the members' race on *Rugged Gem* and was later successful on *Marine Hall* (restricted) and *Saint Peray* (open maiden division, one part one). Both *Marine Hall* and *Saint Peray* were sold by Mark Gichero to their respective owners.

The former, which is qualified with the Llangeinor Hunt, and owned by Paul Evans, won by eight lengths from *Copper Castle* and the latter, owned and trained by Dai Rees, made every post a winning one when coming home a distance ahead of *Peterman.*

Little Miss Monty, a 10-year-old bare mare, ridden by Emily Farr, took the second part of the second division of the open maiden when finishing a neck in front of *Cabinteely,* with *Harry's Ace* a further neck away in third place. *Little Miss Monty* is owned and trained by Emily's mother, Shan, a former Welsh champion rider who had also ridden winners over the course.

Victoria Shervington's *Beyond Dreams*, ridden by Byron Moorcroft, and qualified with the Pentyrch Hunt, made all to win a division of the open maiden after being backed from 5-1 to 2-1 and *Emma Soda*, a six year-old bay mare, came from the Clifton-on-Teme to win her division under Mark Jackson.

This Sunday, the Curre and Llangibby Hunt Steeplechases are being held at Howick near Chepstow; first race 12 noon.

Meanwhile, Tom David who rides out at Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard, landed a juicy 14-1 winner when scoring on five-year-old *The Hague* in the maiden hurdle at Plumpton last Monday. *The Hague* finished 15 lengths ahead of *Alystar,* ridden by the legendary A P McCoy.

Vaughan was back in the winner's enclosure 24 hours later when his strongly fancied *Sertao*, partnered by Richard Johnson, got home by the narrowest margin possible – a nose – in the National Hunt flat race.

Llancarfan's Evan Williams was also in good form at Ffos Las, landing a 17-1 double with *Timesawastin* (evens) and *Fahrisee* (8-1). Both were ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

The former won by six lengths from *Tenby Jewel* and the latter, who was the outsider of four, had three-and-a-half lengths to spare over the odds-on favourite *Ruthenoise*.

WELCOME WINNER

Evergreen Bryn Palling, who trains at Tredodridge, Pendoylan, had a welcome winner when his four-year-old chestnut, *Mr Maximus*, landed the atrpokerclub.com handicap at Wolverhampton last Friday.

Owned by Mr Nigel Thomas, and ridden by R Kingscote, *Mr Maximus* won by three parts of a length from *Idol Deputy* at odds of 14-1.

At Kempton on Saturday, the Evan Williams-trained *Trooper Clarence*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, was an easy winner of the BetFred Casino Novices Handicap Chase. Confidently ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, *Trooper Clarence* won by 13 lengths from *Playing With Fire*. The winner and runner-up were the 11-4 joint favourites.

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09/58	CORSA 1.4 Design 5dr, alloys, air con, CD, central locking	£7995	£43p/w
10/10	CORSA SE 100ps 5dr, Metallic paint, heated seats, A/C	£8995	£49p/w
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08/08	ASTRA ELITE 1.6 5dr, climate, Black leather, full computer	£8495	£46p/w
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07/07	MERIVA Design 1.6, Twin Roof, air con, cruise	£6995	£38p/w
08/58	MERIVA 1.3CDTI CLUB, Metallic paint, elec windows, air con	£7995	£43p/w
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Success for Barry's 'Friends and family'

IT was a real family affair as two teams from Barry reached the finals of a skittles tournament in North Devon.

'Friends and Family' beat off the challenge of 15 other teams from Wales and the West Country to come out on top in the Shoot Out Club competition in Bideford, and Leanne Williams recorded the top score of the entire weekend with an impressive total of 60 to help the all-women's Family Affair B team finish third overall.

It could have been an even bigger Barry bonanza – the Family Affair A team missed out on a place in the final by a single pin.

For the Friends and Family team, victory was particularly sweet. They've been taking part in shoot out skittles events since they started 17 years ago and although they've reached the finals before, this was the first time they'd been crowned champions. They beat Bristol team The Mutineers 388-378 to lift the trophy, quite a performance considering they don't all play regularly.

"We had a great weekend and winning the tournament was a bonus," said team organiser Lynn Hill.

Friends and Family, who base themselves at the Castle Hotel in Barry, used to compete as a ladies-only team but they've gradually let the men in on the act and their name certainly suits them.

In the team with Lynn is husband Stephen, brother-in-law Martyn Hill, sister-in-law Sandra Hale and friend Ray Peterson, together with mother and daughter Beverley and Jennifer Thurston, husband and wife Veronica and Trevor Martin and their daughters Becky and Vicky.

The Family Affair B team beat The Mendippers from Somerset to clinch third place. They come together as a touring team for Shoot Out Club events while Family Affair A play more regularly at Barry Rugby Club in the Barry and District League.

The two teams are made up largely of mothers and daughters with the more mature players making up the A team and their organiser, Sue Vincent said: "Youth won out over experience…this time!"

"It must have been something to do with the Soumo suits we wore for the fancy dress party on the Saturday night," said her daughter, Cath Edwards.

The Family Affair B team featured Cath Edwards, Leanne Williams, Jenny Williams, Kelly Keating, Carlie Grubb, Judith Enticott, Maria Edwards, Sarah Adams, Karen Adams and Jenny Starke.

In the pink - Friends and Family with their Shoot Out Club winners' trophy.

Llantwit under-13s lose out to Tondu at the Rec

ON a cold and windy morning, Llantwit Major under-13s entertained Tondu for the second time this season at the Rec.

The boys started confidently and a score from Llantwit was inevitable and deservedly came through Richard Danderfield, following some excellent interpassing between backs and forwards; Iestyn Jones neatly converted.

The game ebbed back and forth, with both sides wanting to attack and both defended well. The score remained 7–0 in Llantwit's favour at half time.

The second half continued as the first, but Tondu came out of the blocks a little more eager in the contact area.

Pressure finally turned into points with a well deserved converted try.

As the game wore on, Llantwit's strong defence in the first half began to show cracks as the Tondu forwards began to take the upper hand.

Quick ball from the ruck area saw Tondu increase their lead with two further converted tries.

Llantwit tried in vain to take the game to their opposition and showed some neat touches with good support play, but poor decision making at crucial times made Llantwit suffer with a late unconverted try to make the final score 26–7 to the visitors.

The boys can take a lot from the game as the run in to the end of the season starts to gather pace.

Well done boys, you did yourselves proud once again.

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Cowbridge under-11s earn win (and draw) against Pontyclun

Under-11s – Pontyclun (Blues Cup)

THE first five minutes saw Pontyclun declare their intentions, but Sam Corkill rocked their prop back, allowing Jac Roberts and Jake Griffiths to turn over possession.

The ball was flashed along the back line to Bevan Howells and the impressive Cowbridge centre shook off an attempted tackle to run the ball in from 40 metres. From the restart, the ball was moved wide, only for the Pontyclun centre to intercept and race away for the score.

Cowbridge stuck to the game plan of moving their bigger opponents around the park and, after great work from Max Lucas, the ball was sent wide.

Cameron Roy moved the ball to Max Cunnington, who broke several tackles before releasing Evan Williams, and the flying winger beat numerous defenders to score a magnificent try from halfway.

The second half kicked off and Pontyclun forced play deep in the Cowbridge half. A number of penalties were conceded, allowing Pontyclun to drive over for the try.

Superb defence from Luke Beattie, Ellis Simon and Rhys Bradshaw kept Pontyclun out.

Jac Roberts and Sam Corkill worked in tandem to turn the ball over and Morgan Gore then made 50 metres with a fantastic run. The territory made gave Cowbridge the momentum required and Max Cunnington scored in the corner.

Ioan Lewis darted over the line for the final try of the match for a final score of Pontyclun 14 Cowbridge 28.

The second game saw the rest of the squad take to the field. Pontyclun raced to a 14-0 lead.

As the half time whistle blew, Cowbridge were dominating and they continued in the second half.

Great work from William Davies allowed Olly Reynolds the time to release Ellis Simon, and the abrasive fly-half needed no second invitation to power over for a superb try.

After great work on the floor, Sam Corkill emerged with the ball and touched down for the final try of the match. Final score Pontyclun 14 Cowbridge 14.

Our huge thanks to all the Pontyclun players, coaches and supporters for your warm welcome and hospitality.

Squad: Angus James, Bevan Howells, Cameron Roy, Dan Marshall, Dylan Cottle, Ellis Simon, Evan Williams, Ioan Lewis, Jac Roberts, Jake Griffiths, James Guard, Luke Beattie, Max Cunnington, Max Lucas, Morgan Gore, Oliver Reynolds, Rhys Bradshaw, Rhys Davies, Sam Corkill, Tom Coates, Tom Jose, William Davies.

Under-7s – Rhiwbina (away)

RHIWBINA, with almost as big a squad as Cowbridge and enough ground space, offered to play two games simultaneously.

The boys quickly split into two similar strength teams, the Greens and the Whites. The Green team were playing Rhiwbina 'A' team and the game between them was immensely exciting.

James Jones went in for the first try and Reuben Davies kept the scores equal, but in the last quarter, Harri Treharne ran in six tries.

Stefan Evans rounded off a great team movement with an excellently taken final try, a just reward for his sterling work in tagging, to take the final score to a thoroughly deserved winning score of 12-10.

The White team, playing Rhiwbina 'B', put the opposition under such pressure with their excellent defence work that turnovers were quite the norm.

This meant that the potent attack was making hay against their illustrious opponents, Rhydian Williams to the fore with seven tries.

Rhiwbina were able to show their class as the boys eased up a bit and scored seven well-taken tries of their own.

However, a quick wake-up call and it was business as usual, with Lewys Robins, Archie Lloyd, Robbie Brown and Finlay Sullivan touching down to take the result away from Rhiwbina. Final score 13-7.

A great result against a team that had lost only one game this year and that in the only tournament that they had not won; well done, boys!

Scorers: Harri Treharne (6), Reuben Davies (4), Stefan Evans, James Jones, Rhydian Williams (7), Robbie Brown (2), Finlay Sullivan (2), Archie Lloyd, Lewys Robins.

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Morgan Harris, Will Harries, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Lewys Robins, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell, Harri Treharne, Rhydian Williams.

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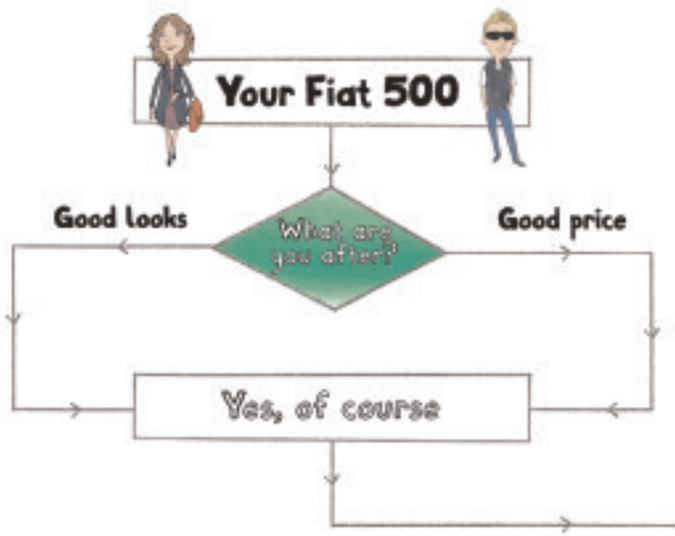

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04 **04 TOYOTA MR2 1.8 VVTi 140 6-spd** in sable grey met with Santa Monica leather, alloy wheels, chrome roll over bar, wind deflector, cd, alarm and immobiliser, only 49,750 miles **£6,995**

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03 **53 HONDA Civic 1.6 VTec SE Sport 3-Dr Hatchback.** In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles **£4,495**

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FAMILY

09 **09 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 75 Verve 5-dr Hatchback.** In onyx black with black interior, alloy wheels, air con, body coloured bumpers, front fog lights, only 8,890 miles **£7,995**

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04 **54 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 Twist 3-dr Hatchback** in indigo blue with anthracite interior, air con, electric heated mirrors, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 22,480 miles **£4,495**

04 **04 TOYOTA Avensis 2.0 VVTi T-Spirit Auto 4-dr Saloon.** Silver fern, st moritz charcoal leather, map gps nav system, climate, cruise, electric seat adjustment, only 55,065 miles **£5,995**

03 **53 NISSAN Almera Tino 1.8S 5-dr MPV** in starburst silver with granite grey interior, climate control, CD, immobiliser, steering wheel mounted controls, only 59,870 miles **£3,495**

SMALL

08 **58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE+ 5-dr Hatchback.** In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles **£3,995**

08 **58 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 16v Design (A/C).** 5 door in ice blue with dark interior, air con, MP3 input, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, only 19,950 miles **£7,995**

08 **58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0SE+ 5-dr Hatchback.** In poly silver with blue/black interior, air con, central locking, CD, colour coded bumpers, power steering, only 26,750 miles.....**£3,995**

08 **08 MAZDA 2 1.3 TS 3-dr Hatchback.** in icy blue with charcoal black interior, electric mirrors, front electric windows, power steering, CD, service history, only 29,800 miles **£6,795**

08 **08 CITROEN C1 1.0i Rhythm 5-dr Hatchback** in Caldera black with black interior, electric front windows, p/steering, CD, centre rear seat belt, 1 owner, £35 a year road tax, only 18,100 miles.....**£5,495**

08 **08 FORD KA Studio.** In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles.....**£4,495**

06 **56 FORD Fiesta 1.25 Zetec Climate 3-dr Hatchback.** In tonic blue with Tungsten Denim blue interior, alloy wheels, air con, electric front windows, power steering, only 46,000 miles.....**£4,995**

06 **56 HYUNDAI Getz 1.1 Atlantic 3-dr hatchback.** In sky blue with dark grey interior, air con, alloy wheels, front fogs, body coloured bumpers, alarm, 27,820 miles **£4,450**

04 **04 FORD Ka 1.6 Sport 3-dr Hatchback.** Magnum grey with streetline dark interior, colour coded bumpers, front fog lights, electric windows, alloy wheels, CD, only 40,955 miles **£3,495**

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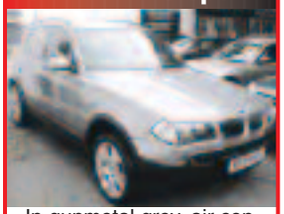
54 Mini One Convertible

In cool blue with full leather trim, 50,000 miles, host of extras **£6,995**

04 MERCEDES CLK 240 Convertible Auto

In black with black leather trim, 66,000 miles, upgraded alloys **£11,995**

04 BMW X3 Sport



In gunmetal grey, air con, abs, multiple airbags, alloy wheels, parking sensors, Leather upholstery, pas. **£9,995**

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08	**VAUXHALL Vectra 1.9 Diesel SRi Auto.** In silver, 39,000 miles	£8,995
54	**BMW 318Ci Sport convertible.** In red, 72,000 miles, fantastic value at	£8,995
53	**BMW 530 Diesel SE Automatic.** In black with black leatehr trim, sat nav, 18" alloys	£8,995
54	**SEAT Alhambra 1.9 TDi Auto** in silver beech met, 44,000 miles, 2 owners, 7-seater	£8,495
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54	**MINI One Convertible.** In cool blue with full leather trim, 50,000 miles, host of extras	£6,995
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06	**FORD Fiesta 2.0 ST.** In silver, 39,000 miles with a/c, on offer at REDUCED BY £1000 TO	£5,995
03	**MERCEDES C220Di Avant Garde SE Auto** in black, 78,000 miles, diesel economy at	£5,995
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07	**SEAT Ibiza 1.9 TDi FR 3-dr.** In gun metal metallic, 51,000 miles, very lively diesel at	£6,995
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59	**TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 Platinum 5-dr Auto.** In silver, 10,000 miles, 1 owner	£6,995
56	**TOYOTA Avensis T3S 2.0-4D 5-dr.** In sea mist silver, 73,000 mile diesel hatch at	£6,495
07	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamic Auto** In met-burgundy, superb example with only 25,000 miles	£5,995
07	**RENAULT Clio 1.4 Dynamique 3-dr.** In met graphite, 21,000 miles with air con	£5,695
54	**FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr.** In electric blue, 73,000 miles, fantastic MPG	£5,495
06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.3 Diesel Active.** In met blue, 42,000 miles, low insurance + road tax	£5,295
58	**CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.6 SXi Estate Auto.** met blue, 9,000 miles, manufacturers warranty REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,995
56	**MITSUBISHI Lancer 1.6 Elegance Automatic.** In met blue with black leather, 37,000 miles	£4,995
04	**TOYOTA Avensis 1.8 T3-S 5-dr.** In met blue, 73,000 miles	£4,995
04	**PEUGEOT 206 2.0cc.** In ice blue, 33,000 miles with full leather trim, 2 owners	£4,695
06	**CITROEN Picasso 2.0 Desire Auto.** Blue, very desirable car, 38,867 miles REDUCED BY £800 TO	£3,995
06	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.8 Life 5-dr Automatic.** In met black, 53,000 miles REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,495
06	**VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life** In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc REDUCED BY £500 TO	£4,495
06	**RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Expression** in silver, low mileage example of this versatile model	£4,495
05	**CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi SX 5-dr.** In light met blue, 67,000 miles, diesel economy at	£4,495
06	**HYUNDAI Getz 1.1CDX 5-dr.** In black, 28,000 miles, superb example at	£4,295
07	**PEUGEOT 1007 1.4 'Delce'.** In met bronze, 29,000 miles, electric sliding doors etc	£3,995
06	**PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr.** In electric blue, 61,000 miles with a/c, cd, alloys	£3,995
55	**VAUXHALL Astra 1.6 Life 5-dr Auto.** In met red, 33,000 miles, fantastic value at	£3,995
04	**FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-dr.** 78,000 miles with full leather trim	£3,995
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THE SQUASH C TEAM TAKE IT TO THE WIRE

COWBRIDGE C Shampan were involved in an extremely nail-biting finish at the Athletic Ground courts in week 6 of the current squash campaign against Llanishen B.

The whole match was decided in the final set with a 9–10 tie break win to the opposition.

In the same week, Cowbridge B Bar 44 went down 2–3 at Old Penarthians and the A team suffered a rare 0–5 reverse at home to South Wales League 1B Champions elect – Newport D.

The evenly contested C's versus Llanishen B match saw Ed Lowe (no 5) and Tony Steele (No 4) producing five-setters but with opposite outcomes.

Lowe won the initial exchanges 9–5 before going 1–2 down in games, but followed with a 9–4 fourth to draw level.

This could not be matched in the fifth, losing out 6–9.

Steele, however, produced a wonderful fightback from 2–9, 4–9 to come through 9–2, 9–7, 9–4 to level the match.

Skipper Dave Matthews started and finished his five set match with 9–10 tie breaks and consequently allowed the match back in Llanishen's favour.

Vintage campaigner Hugh Wallace, however, restored the match balance with a fine 3–1 win having fought back from a 5–9 first game.

All was set for an epic finish to an epic match with No 1 Colin Giles looking to secure the five-pointer match winning string – only to come within a whisker of doing so; 9–3, 2–9, 9–4, 4–9, 9–10. Match result 12–16.

Old Penarthians B welcomed Cowbridge B Bar 44 and both sides produced a competitive match.

String Nos 5 (Russ Watts) and 3 (Julian Jenkins) went into battle first with Watts struggling to settle (1–9, 6–9, 7–9).

Jenkins, on the other hand, eventually settled and turned 0–2 into 3–2 with some hard fought mid-match tie-break battling.

Chris Ranger (no 2) and Colin Baxter (no 4) next took up the challenge, with the former settling earlier to produce a fine 3–0 win against a young, big-hitting opponent.

Baxter struggled to become acclimatised in the early exchanges (2–9) before turning in a 9–5 second and looked to have settled into a groove, before opponent Johnson found some extra power to edge back in front and finally edge out Baxter with a tie-break fourth.

The match was all set for the No 1s to decide the match – Old Pens No 1 John Burchurst well fired up to avenge a 3–0 defeat inflicted by Bs Paul Reynish earlier in the year.

This he achieved, but not without Reynish putting up a valiant fight, 7–9, 9–10, 10–8, 3–9. Match result 8–15.

League toppers, Newport D, visited the Cowbridge Athletic Ground.

Cowbridge As were again one player down from their regular five, with No 3 Garfield Leask unavailable.

Simon Payne and Niall Sloan stepped the order to 2 and 3 from Nos 4 and 5 respectively with B team Colin Baxter helping out at No 5.

Baxter turned out to be the star of the show, turning in a battling five setter with two tie-break games to start, but eventually going down 3–9 in the fifth.

Further points were taken at Nos 1, 3 and 4 by Nick Guard, Simon Payne and Niall Sloan (match result 5–19) but the team now find themselves at the wrong end of an extremely tight division.

Week 7 sees the Bar 44 As travel to Cardiff C looking to overcome the five point gap, Bar 44 Bs entertain Rhiwbina D and the Shampan Cs travel to UHW A encouraged by last week's performance against league leaders Llanishen.

All club details from chairman Clive Prigg (01446 773729) or club skipper russ.watts@btopenworld.com.

RW

Under-12A are on the title hunt

RECENTLY, Cowbridge under-12A beat Cogan A 4–3 during half term with many players being unavailable from the squad.

This week saw a 7–0 victory over Barry Park Lions, with an outstanding performance from Sammy Lee, who put in a man of the match performance.

The squad have to dig in hard on the final run-in to the season if they wish to win the title and bring Cowbridge Town Junior Football its first ever league title – an achievement if they can pull it off. **SD**

Cowbridge RFC under-8s save their best 'til last!

ANOTHER bitterly cold, but thankfully dry, morning saw Cowbridge RFC under-8s take a trip to Rhiwbina for a series of games.

For once the opposing squad was of a similar size as Cowbridge so two full teams were pitted head to head against each other.

Rather than play two straight games, each team played alternate quarters of 10 minutes each.

The Cowbridge squad was split into the following two teams:

Team A: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Iestyn Owen, Jack Riley, Harry Whittaker, Jake Williams.

Team B: Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Ben Farrell, James Gilvear, Matthew Gilvear, Elis Greenwood, Harry Holtam, Morgan Isaacs, Tom Johnson, Finn Martin Jones, McKinley Parsons, Dewi Williams.

Period 1 (Team A) Rhiwbina 5 – Cowbridge 2

THE play, if a little disjointed due to handling errors from both teams, saw Rhiwbina open the scoring before Jake crossed the line to open the scoring for Cowbridge.

There followed a period of play where Cowbridge, despite pressuring the Rhiwbina line and crossing it on a number of occasions, although not to the satisfaction of the referee, could not contain a rampant attack from a very good Rhiwbina team.

Suffering somewhat from a lack of width in defence and struggling to adjust to a strict but consistent interpretation of the rules allowed Rhiwbina to take the score to 4–1 before Cowbridge forged forward for a second try, with Oliver scoring following a period of intense pressure on the Rhiwbina line.

Tries: Jake Williams and Oliver Jarmain.

Period 2 (Team B) Rhiwbina 7 – Cowbridge 1

BEING a little slow in getting to grips with the Rhiwbina team and the conditions saw the team concede a number of tries to another very good Rhiwbina team.

Rhiwbina capitalised on a number of handling errors and some very quick restarts, playing the referee very well.

The Rhiwbina team were also very quick to dominate any loose balls ending up on the floor.

Iwan-Thomas managed to complete a good passing sequence in this period to score Cowbridge's only try.

Tries : Iwan-Thomas Bartle.

Period 3 (Team A) Rhiwbina 2 – Cowbridge 2

SOME coaching magic during the period off the field saw Cowbridge returning and putting in a committed and sometimes ferocious defensive performance.

Showing much better width and shape in defence, players were literally flying into tackles to protect their line.

This, coupled with a renewed confidence going forward and some excellent support play, saw Jake scoring Cowbridge first try of the period after a good passing sequence and a break by Aled.

Oliver scored Cowbridge's final try of the period.

Tries: Jake Williams and Oliver Jarmain.

Period 4 (Team B) Rhiwbina 4 – Cowbridge 6

ANOTHER dramatic improvement in team performance after a period of re-adjustment off the field saw a Cowbridge team emerge and put together a fantastic attacking performance.

They competed far better for any loose balls and defended very well.

They were unlucky not to score more and I'm certain that some voracious and succinct vocal support from the Cowbridge contingent watching the game saw Iwan-Thomas following up his first try in the second period with Cowbridge's first of period 4.

Some excellent runs by all the team coupled with excellent passing moves and support play saw Tom cross the line next for Cowbridge for the first of his two tries this period.

Ben went over from a position close to the line before Tom scored his second.

Dewi went over in the corner after a good run. Elis completed Cowbridge's excellent performance in this period.

Tries: Iwan-Thomas Bartle (2), Tom Johnson, Ben Farrell, Tom Johnson, Dewi Williams, Elis Greenwood.

GW

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07 57 Renault Clio Dynamique SX. Silver, alloys, skirt kit, 19,000 miles £6,995
07 Renault Clio 1.4 16v Privilege. Black, 15,345 miles £7,695
07 Renault Clio Expression 1.4 5-dr. 1 owner, in blue, low mileage, air con, alloys, 24,500 miles £5,995
06 Renault Clio 1.4 16v Expression. Silver, 29,050 miles ..... WAS 6,995 NOW £6,495
06 Renault Clio 1.2 16v Campus. Silver, 15,800 miles ..... WAS 5,695 NOW £5,495
56 Renault Clio 1.2 16v Expression. Black, 5,900 miles ..... WAS 6,995 NOW £6,495
56 Renault Clio 1.2 16v Extreme. Grey, 25,008 miles ..... WAS 6,995 NOW £6,495
55 Renault Clio 1.2 16v Extreme. Blue, 20,395 miles ..... WAS 5,995 NOW £4,495
05 55 Renault Clio Dynamique S 1.4. Blue, 33,000 miles £5,495

MEGANE

09 09 Renault Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique. Grey, 39,000 miles £9,495
09 09 Renault Megane 1.5 DCi Dynamique. Black, 42,100 miles £9,495
57 Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique c/cab. Grey, 38,975 miles . WAS 9,995 NOW £9,295
56 Renault Megane 1.9 DCi Dynamique. Blue, 37,620 miles .. WAS 7,295 NOW £6,995

SCENIC

10 10 Grand Scenic DCi 1.9. 130 bhp, 21,000 miles, oyster grey, 7 seater, alloys, air con £13,495
06 56 Grand Scenic 2.0 Automatic. Silver, 34,000 miles £7,495
06 56 Scenic Dynamique. Blue with glass roof parking sensor, air con, cd, only 29,000 miles £5,995

MODUS

07 57 Modus 1.6 Dynamique Automatic S. Black, half leather, alloys, air con, cd, 32,000 miles £6,495
05 Renault Modus Dynamique Automatic. 40,000 miles in ruby red £4,995

TWINGO

09 Renault Twingo Extreme. Blue £7,995
09 Renault Twingo Extreme. Silver £7,995
08 Renault Twingo 1.2 16v Dynamique. A/c, black, 17,000 miles WAS 7,995 NOW £7,495

EX DEMOS

10 10 Megane Coupe/Cabriolet Dynamique 1.9 DCi. Black, 5,000 miles £20,995
60 Megane Renault Sport 2.0 Turbo. 3-dr, white, 18" black alloys, 4,500 miles .. £23,895

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Celtic cousins have a point to prove

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

THE story begins 129 years ago at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, on January 28, 1882 – the day Wales and Ireland first clashed on the international rugby field (the Welsh tourists won that opener by two goals, the scoring method at the time).

'Clashed' is no understatement – for the ensuing 115 encounters have produced some notable, at times notorious moments, as passions boiled over in the heat of combat!

However, fierce rivalry between these close Celtic cousins should never be confused with enmity, as evidenced by many legendary tales of off-field camaraderie, not only between players, but the supporters of both camps over the years.

Even so, time after time Irish teams seemed to have reserved their best efforts to thwart Welsh hopes of a Triple Crown or Grand Slam at the final hurdle.

Wales almost returned the 'compliment' in 2009, when a typically seesaw match at the Millennium Stadium saw Stephen Jones' last-gasp penalty fall agonisingly short and Ireland won 17-15, to claim their first Grand Slam for 61 years!

There was a nice irony in this, for in 2005 it was Wales that had overcome Ireland 32-20 in Cardiff to complete *their* first Grand Slam since 1978.

By and large, narrow margins have been a feature of matches between the two nations – notable exceptions being 2002, when Ireland won 54-10, and 1976, when Wales won 34-9.

However, the pendulum swung sharply towards the men in green during the years that followed Wales' golden era.

The measure of the challenge facing the Welsh team when they meet Ireland again at the Millennium Stadium on Saturday evening, is that in the last 10 years alone, the latter have won nine and Wales three of the 12 games played.

Even so, the record books also reveal encouraging statistics, for the overall table reads: Wales 62 wins, Ireland 47, with six matches drawn.

Even more remarkably, Wales remain ahead on points – 1,329 to Ireland's 1,216, so all is far from lost!

Moreover, Warren Gatland's team know that Ireland's Six Nations campaign has so far failed to measure up to expectations, while Wales, too, have yet to fire on all cylinders; so the stage is set for yet another intensely close-fought encounter, with both teams having much to prove, while at the same time still nursing title hopes.

Former England captain Will Carling's comments that Gatland is enforcing a conservative style of play totally alien to the Welsh team and that James Hook should be "set free" at outside half, gave the team announcement on Tuesday an added piquancy.

In the event, the coach bowed to the media clamour for veteran Stephen Jones to make way for his younger rival, rather than stick with controlling midfeld general Jones against an Ireland team expected to be masterminded by Irish equivalent, Ronan O'Gara

Hook got the nod, presumably because he offers something different to Jones, so it would seem odd indeed if in fact he is instructed to play in a similar 'conservative' style!

In that sense, Carling had a point.

Gatland did resist bringing back fit again Ospreys prop Adam Jones for the expected fireworks against an Irish eight desperate to silence their own critics. The only other changes saw the expected return of Jonathan Davies and Leigh Halfpenny to the backline.

It promises to be yet another Celtic battle royal!

WALES TEAM TO FACE IRELAND: Lee Byrne (Ospreys); Leigh Halfpenny (Blues), Jamie Roberts (Blues), Jonathan Davies (Scarlets) Shane Williams (Ospreys); James Hook (Ospreys), Mike Phillips (Ospreys); Paul James (Ospreys), Matthew Rees (Scarlets, capt), Craig Mitchell (Ospreys), Bradley Davies (Blues), Alun Wyn Jones (Ospreys) Dan Lydiate (Dragons), Sam Warburton (Blues), R Jones (Ospreys).

IT'S AGONY FOR COWBRIDGE AFTER PENALTY TRY LOSS TO PENYGRAIG

COWBRIDGE RFC	18
PENYGRAIG RFC	22

RESULTS over the last few weeks had shown that if everything came together for Cowbridge, and with the right mind set, they could be a match for anyone and last Saturday proved that.

Within two minutes of the start, Ed Lakin at outside-half put over a penalty from the halfway line. Cowbridge continued to press and eight minutes in, following a penalty kick by full-back Huw Lougher that brought Cowbridge deep into Penygraig territory, play moved in field and a scrum was formed five metres out.

With a great drive and the ball at No 8 Ross Llewellyn's feet, Cowbridge secured a push over try that Lakin converted.

More great play was followed by the try of the game five minutes later as the alert Llewellyn took a quick throw-in to left wing Ian Overton who, 40 metres out, set off on a fantastic run, cutting inside and out to score in the right hand corner for an unconverted try.

Penygraig attacked Cowbridge for the next 10 minutes, but the defence held until, from a lineout and drive, Penygraig scored their first points.

Cowbridge increased their lead just before half-time when a trip on right wing Tom Larkin as he kicked ahead resulted in a penalty that Lakin again put between the sticks.

While tackles were being made all over the pitch, the full length dive tackle by prop David Popham, just before the whistle, to stop Penygraig's lively hooker breaking clear was a bit special. Half-time and the richly deserved lead was 18-5.

Cowbridge knew what was coming after the break. The question was, could they hold out?

Ian Overton, who looked so threatening, had pulled his hamstring so Rob Langdon came onto the wing.

Ten minutes in and after a series of drives, Penygraig's hooker crashed over.

Five minutes later, there was another real blow as second row Steve Birchenough was forced off with a nasty groin injury. Alun John replaced him.

Minutes later, Penygraig got their third try when, from a pick and go, their scrum-half crossed the whitewash. Prop Jon Phillips left the fray after a great effort to be replaced by Chris Hanks. Penygraig pressed but Cowbridge kept them out. As the minutes ran down, Tom Larkin pulled off a great tackle to prevent a try.

Then controversy as first hooker Jac Williams was yellow-carded with just four minutes left for supposed hands in the ruck.

Right at the death, a scrum on the Cowbridge line and Penygraig were kept out. A penalty was awarded and Penygraig tried to burst through but were repelled. A further penalty was given for offside, which again Cowbridge defended, and then the referee very harshly gave a penalty try. The conversion brought the final whistle and a final score 18-22.

There was much debate afterwards in the clubhouse about why no warning was given before the penalty try, and how the referee could be sure a try would have been scored, but the result stands.

It was a terrific effort and there was common agreement with the Penygraig supporters that Cowbridge had not deserved to lose.

Cowbridge had done very well at the lineout defensively, with flanker Carwyn Davies being lifted high to unsight the Penygraig jumpers, and when attacking, Steve Birchenough and Tom Llewlleyn secured plenty of ball.

Youngsters Luke Boys and Huw Moorcraft had bottled up the midfield but this was a team effort with every single player making a telling contribution. The players know for sure the effort and commitment they must put in over the final weeks of the season.

The next matches are away to Wattstown on March 26, followed by a home clash on April 12 against Cilfynydd.

Finally, good luck to Wales this Saturday against the Irish.

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